Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-130
Monday
8 July 1991

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Lebanese Relations, Peace Conference *[Paris Radio]* 1
'Arafat, FRG's Gregor Gysi Discuss Relations *[Berlin ADN]* 2
'Arafat Receives Soviet Envoy in Tunis 4 Jul *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Government Collecting Medium, Heavy Weapons *[Algiers VOP]* 2
PLO Denies Role in Sidon School Incident *[Algiers VOP]* 2
PLO's Milhim on Peace, Military Option *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Jul]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Temporary Replacement for Madani Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Defense Minister Speaks on Army Intervention *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Islamic Front Leader Arrested at News Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Details of News Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 6
FIS Urges Elected Officials To Resume Duties *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Authorities Search FIS Headquarters, Mosque *[Algiers Radio]* 6
8,000 Arrested, 300 Killed in 'Confrontation' *[Paris Radio]* 6
Army Withdraws Tanks From Algiers 8 July *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Commentary Views Differences Within FIS *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Ghozali Addresses National Assembly 4 July *[Algiers TV]* 7

Egypt

Musa on Gulf Security, Disarmament, Peace Process *[MENA]* 12
Ghali Nominated for UN Secretary General Post *[MENA]* 12
Mubarak, Advisers Said Working To Replace Shamir *[Jerusalem Television]* 12
Musa: GCC, Syria Meeting in Kuwait Postponed *[MENA]* 13
PRC Joint Communique Issued on Li Peng Visit *[MENA]* 13
Li Peng's Cairo News Conference *[MENA]* 14
Li Peng Leaves for Amman *[MENA]* 15

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Gulf War, Terrorism, Chad *[Paris LE FIGARO 4 Jul]* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Egyptian Visit *[JANA]* 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Egyptian Prime Minister *[Tripoli Television]* 17
Palestine's 'Arafat Arrives in Banghazi 7 July *[Tripoli Radio]* 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yugoslav Ambassador *[Tripoli Television]* 17
Speculation on 'Probable' U.S. Strike on Iraq *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 18

IRAQ

Saddam Receives, Addresses Jordanian Delegation *[INA]* 19
Saddam Speaks to Tunisian Workers on Iraqi Values *[INA]* 20
Paper Says 'Misleading' U.S. Campaign To Fail *[INA]* 21
Saddam To Submit Nuclear Materials List to UN *[Amman Radio]* 22
UN Official on Cooperation in Missile Destruction *[INA]* 22

18 Officers Said Executed for Jun Coup Attempt *[AFP]* 22
Kurdish Leader Barzan.'s Visit to Baghdad Noted *[AFP]* 22
Expresses 'Confidence' in Talks *[INA]* 23
'Tension' in Holy Cities; Kho'i House Arrest *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 24
Talks With Kurdish Leaders Resume in Irbil *[INA]* 24
Conditions Stated for Allowing Import Licenses *[Baghdad Radio]* 24

ISRAEL

'Terrorists' Kill IDF Soldier, Escape to Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Infiltrators Enter Syria *[HA'ARETZ 4 Jul]* 25
Lebanon Withdrawal Viable if 'Terrorism' Ends *[THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Jul]* 25
Kibbutz Council Recognizes Palestinian Rights *[DAVAR 7 Jul]* 26
Arens Dismisses Report on Withdrawal From Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Foreign Minister on 'Alien Forces' in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Shamir Comments on Situation in Lebanon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Egyptian Government Invites Levi To Visit in Jul *[DAVAR 8 Jul]* 28
Sharon Plans To Settle One Milion in Jerusalem *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Jul]* 28

JORDAN

PRC Prime Minister Visits, Meets King Husayn 29
Arrives, Makes Statement *[Amman Radio]* 29
Discusses Relations *[Amman Radio]* 29
Received by King Husayn *[Amman TV]* 29
Prime Minister al-Masri Says Visit 'Successful' *[Amman TV]* 30
PRC Foreign Minister on Country's Role in Region *[PETRA-JNA]* 30
Decree Issued To Repeal Martial Law Provisions *[Amman TV]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Fierce Fighting' Kills Over 100 in Laghman *[Islamabad Radio]* 32
Kabul Units Carry Out Combat Operations *[Kabul Radio]* 32
Iran-Based Party Confers on UN Peace Plan *[IRNA]* 32

Bangladesh

Soviet Envoy Offers Help for Economic Development *[Dhaka International]* 32
Commentary Views Growing Cooperation With China *[Dhaka International]* 32

India

Alleged LTTE Members Arrested in Gandhi Murder 33
Sri Lankan Tamils Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Team Reveals Escape Plan Suspects *[AFP]* 33
Murder Suspect Flown To Delhi *[AFP]* 34
All Sri Lankans in Tamil To Register With Police *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Swedish Nationals Released at Police Station *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Reportage on Transit Stay Facilities in Pakistan 35
Pakistan Denies Withdrawal *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Spokesman Criticizes Pakistan Refusal *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Government Asks LTTE To Renounce Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Rao Comments on Programs, Issues at Conference *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Six 'Militants' Killed, Six Arrested in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Five Arrested in Jodhpur *[Delhi Radio]* 36

Iran

'Hard-Line' Majles Deputies Detained, Questioned *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* 36
Air Force Commander Leaves for Soviet Union *[IRNA]* 36
President 'Determined' To Complete Power Plant *[IRNA]* 36
Interior Minister Interviewed on Iraqi Refuges *[AFP]* 36
Paper Criticizes Government's Economic Policies *[BAYAN 22 May-21 Jun]* 37
Commentary on Perpetrators of 'False Propaganda' *[Tehran Television]* 38
Paper on U.S. 'Hegemonic' Plans for Middle East *[RESALAT 25 Jun]* 39
PRC Premier Arrives on 'Official Visit' *[IRNA]* 40
Confers With Rafsanjani *[IRNA]* 40

Nepal & Bhutan

Civil Servants Strike To Demand Higher Wages *[AFP]* 41

Pakistan

Two Killed During Firing at Kashmir Border *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
U.S. Presence in Mideast 'Nemesis' of Muslims *[THE MUSLIM 2 Jul]* 41
Premier of Pakistani-Controlled Kashmir Arrested *[AFP]* 42
Troops Patrol Kashmir *[AFP]* 42
Four Arrested for Planning Murder of Premier *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
10 Army Engineers Killed, 14 Injured in Blast *[AFP]* 43
Spokesman Denies Withdrawing Transit Facilities *[AFP]* 43

Sri Lanka

Muslims 'Butchered' by Suspected Tamil Guerrillas *[AFP]* 43
LTTE Offers Unconditional Talks With Government *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Lebanese Relations, Peace Conference

JN0507181791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1706 GMT 5 Jul 91

["Text" of telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified reporter on 5 July; 'Arafat's location not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat: The latest developments in Palestinian-Lebanese relations in the Sidon area produced a bilateral agreement last night that was endorsed by the Lebanese ministerial committee and your personal representative in south Lebanon. How would you react to the agreement?

['Arafat] From the beginning, we tried to reach an agreement with the Lebanese brothers. Everyone knows that we were for the deployment of the Lebanese Army from the time it asked to enter Iqlim al-Tuffah, as you may recall. We facilitated its entry into al-Nabatiyah, al-Zahrani, and the Sidon area itself. We were for the deployment of this Army and for implementing the Lebanese Government's decision to control all of Lebanese territory, inch by inch, up to the last area under the the Israeli enemy, whether in Jazzin or the border strip, from al-Naqura up to Kafr Shuba. This is the position of the Palestinian leadership. Therefore, we were surprised that this fighting took place. God be praised, we were actually able to break this infernal chain. There will not be a recurrence of Palestinian-Lebanese fighting since this is not on the PLO's agenda; neither is a Palestinian presence. We respect the sovereignty of the Lebanese Government and Army throughout the country. Our stand will remain so. We never wanted the recent clashes, and thanks be to God we have emerged from this diabolical cycle to the untroubled Lebanese-Palestinian relations that we have been striving for over the years. Everyone knows that we had extricated ourselves from intra-Lebanese clashes and internal Lebanese disputes and differences.

[Reporter] How do you see the future of Lebanese-Palestinian relations? Do you still press for a political agreement with the Lebanese state to regulate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon?

['Arafat] This is up to the Lebanese Government. I know that it will be difficult for the Lebanese Government to once again (?question) such an agreement with the PLO, but we sincerely hope that this brotherly agreement will encompass all aspects of the Palestinian presence. The PLO Executive Committee regards the abrogation by the Lebanese Cabinet of the decree a positive step down the road of Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

[Reporter] Brother Abu-'Ammar, in light of this new agreement, what will be the fate of Palestinian weapons in Lebanon?

['Arafat] The fate of Palestinian weapons is the same like that of the weapons of all Lebanese brothers. This is a clear matter with clear purposes and ends.

[Reporter] It seems that what has happened has been interpreted from the Western point of view as a weakening of the PLO, and consequently....

['Arafat, interrupting] This is a U.S.-Israeli scheme which sought to drag us again into a Lebanese-Palestinian conflict, away from the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

[Reporter] Exactly. You are now waging a bitter battle to impose the Palestinian card onto the peace settlement table in the event that terms for a just solution are provided. What is your assessment of the situation?

['Arafat] The most important thing is that we considered it a major success since it does not turn the Arab-Israeli conflict into a Palestinian-Lebanese conflict. Our brothers insisted.... [changes thought] It is true that they did not give us time as they did the Lebanese organizations, but they are only exercising their rights over their land. They used to say, however, that Israel's pretext for not implementing Resolution 425 and not withdrawing from the border zone is the Palestinian weapons. Now we are telling the Lebanese people that the justification Israel clings to is no longer there. Will Israel withdraw from the border zone? Will Israel stop stealing the Lebanese Arab water from the al-Wazzani, al-Hasbani, and al-Litani rivers? We will do our best to achieve Israel's withdrawal and to make Israel, and the United States as well, comply with Resolution 425. We hope that all efforts will be made to achieve this Arab end in confronting the Israeli occupation.

[Reporter] Brother Abu-'Ammar, a final question: There are serious efforts to turn over a new page in Arab relations. What should be written on this page, and what is the Palestinian stand on the process of uniting the Arab position in light of the proposed settlement plans?

['Arafat] As you know, we have continuous contacts with all concerned Arab and international parties. On the Arab level, we are in continuous contact with the confrontation states to coordinate positions, at least at a minimum level, in order to confront Israeli intransigence, schemes, and policies, which say no, no, no to everything. This depends, however, on whether there will be a peace conference or whether it is propaganda to soak up Arab indignation following the Gulf war. Regrettably, the Israeli no's are being followed by U.S. no's to protect Israel and enable it to continue the settlement policy, the confiscation of land, and the growing Jewish immigration. I say: As long as the intifadah is continuing on Palestinian land and as long as our people are unified, those people will defeat this Zionist plot. The Palestinian flag, sooner or later, will be hoisted over Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

[Reporter] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, thank you.

'Arafat, FRG's Gregor Gysi Discuss Relations

LD0707104691 Berlin ADN in German 0958 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis (ADN)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has underlined the PLO's will to search constructively and flexibly for a lasting and just peace settlement in the Middle East. In a conversation with Party for Democratic Socialism [PDS] chairman Gregor Gysi in Tunis this weekend, he pointed out that the PLO is striving for a solution that will also guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. In their talk, 'Arafat and Gysi affirmed their resolve to further develop relations of friendship and solidarity between the two organizations.

'Arafat regretted that Israel has not reacted to the PLO's various offers, including an offer of bilateral negotiations, although it should really be clear to Israel that there can be no peace without a settlement with the Palestinians. The Gulf war, Yasir 'Arafat said, has ended but the volcano which erupted had still not quieted. The PLO is intensively trying to bring about a solution to inner-Arab problems. One advance achieved in this was the recently concluded agreement with Lebanon to end the fighting between the Lebanese Army and armed Palestinian units. 'Arafat emphatically called for an international peace conference which should be attended by the United Nations and the PLO. He asked the German federal government to stop judging things by double standards and to at last grant equal aid to the Palestinian people. The FRG should also honor treaties between the PLO and GDR in the economic, scientific, cultural, and medical sectors.

Gregor Gysi said that the PDS will work for an improvement of relations between the FRG and the PLO and Palestine, as well as for the continuation of humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people. The PDS will use its contacts with political forces in that region, including in Israel, in order to help bring about a peaceful settlement. A solution can be found only if Israel's right to exist in secure frontiers as well as the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, including the right to their own state, are recognized. In the final analysis all the international efforts, from which the PLO should not be excluded, can only succeed when Jews and Palestinians are prepared to live with and next to each other.

'Arafat Receives Soviet Envoy in Tunis 4 Jul

LD0507184691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Last night the brother president leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, received Mr. Boris Shiborin, Soviet embassador to Tunisia. During the meeting, brother President Abu-'Ammar received a letter from the Soviet leadership answering his letter concerning the situation in southern Lebanon and the Middle East. The brother president briefed the Soviet ambassador on the latest developments, including the agreement reached in Sidon last night. Brother Sami Musallim, director of the office of the brother president, attended the meeting.

Government Collecting Medium, Heavy Weapons

LD0607205191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] The PLO representative in Lebanon, brother Zayd Wahbah, declared yesterday that the Lebanese Government has given the Organization a 48-hour deadline, ending at 1900 today, to collect medium and heavy weapons under the supervision of the Lebanese Army and to remove the Sidon camps.

Brother Wahbah added: This decision is not a Lebanese decision but a U.S.-Israeli decision. The final decision is not made in Beirut but in Washington and Tel Aviv with some details added to it in Damascus. He went on to say that these weapons will remain the property of the PLO and that it is free to take them outside Lebanon or to other Lebanese areas far from the borders with the Zionist enemy.

Brother Wahbah also said: We agreed to collect the heavy weapons in Sidon under the supervision of the Lebanese Army. The light weapons are not requested now but they could be soon, as will the light weapons in the camps in Tyre.

Wahbah accused the Lebanese authorities of violating the agreement reached with the PLO, particularly by carrying out searches in the areas where the Army was deployed and by not releasing the Palestinian detainees.

The official national Lebanese news agency reported that 574 Palestinians have been arrested in Lebanon since the start of the clashes last Tuesday. It added that 374 of them have been transferred to the Rumiyah prison, north Beirut, and that 200 are still in southern Lebanon.

Regarding the possible departure of the Palestine fighters from Lebanon, brother Wahbah said that the Americans are giving orders to the government, one after the other, and that this is a U.S. decision and not a Lebanese decision. He added that there was an unannounced U.S. decision to transfer the Palestinians from southern Lebanon because from a U.S. point of view the human presence of the Palestinians will constitute a threat to the Israeli enemy in the future.

PLO Denies Role in Sidon School Incident

LD0607190991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] A responsible Palestinian information source has made the following statement: The Voice of Lebanon radio claimed, in its morning news bulletin today, that an armed incident had taken place in Sidon at dawn and that the target was 'Aisha school in the same town. The PLO affirms that neither it nor any of its fighters had anything to do with this isolated incident and that it is

eager to implement what has been agreed upon with the Lebanese Government in a calm atmosphere of harmony and brotherhood.

PLO's Milhim on Peace, Military Option

JN0807071591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, has cautioned the United States and the European countries that next year would be a black one if a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question is not reached.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said that the Arab peoples will give peace a final chance, after which a new work strategy will be adopted based on the military option as long as the Zionist enemy continues to occupy our land.

He stressed that without the PLO there can be no solution, and no one—no matter who—can sidestep the PLO. He said: Let them try.

He said that if the United States wishes to maintain its credibility in the Middle East, it must stop its double standard policy and work to convene an international peace conference because the matter is in its hands.

Replying to a question, Milhim said that Israel does not want a solution to the Palestine question, nor does it want to recognize the Palestinian people or the PLO. Moreover, Israel works to thwart any peace proposal.

Regarding the recent Palestinian-Lebanese agreement, the PLO Executive Committee member said that this agreement distanced the Palestinian people from new massacres, while explaining that it also spared Lebanon turbulences that could be stirred by Israel. Due to this agreement the Zionist enemy no longer has a reason to stay in the Lebanese south.

He stressed that holding an Arab summit has become a pressing need dictated by the nature of the situation the Arab cause is experiencing and by the growing challenges amid unprecedented Arab incapability and fragmentation.

At the end of his statement, Milhim expected the Arab foreign minsters' meeting to be held in September to be a prelude to an Arab summit that would organize the Arab household from the inside.

Algeria

Temporary Replacement for Madani Reported

LD0507211691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] The destination of supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was the Sunna mosque at Bab El-Oued in the capital. The appointment today was with Imam Mohamed Said, in the absence of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who were arrested last Sunday. A large mass of worshippers went to the mosque to perform the Friday prayer and to listen to the two Friday sermons by Imam Mohamed Said who is said to have now succeeded Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. Our colleague (Mohamed Chelouch) was there and has prepared a report for us which includes a number of observations:

[(Chelouch)] The first observation which may be emphasized after listening to the two Friday sermons by Imam Mohamed Said is that there is a temporary leadership led by this man [Mohamed Said] in the absence of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj in order to continue the line followed by the Front under the leadership of the two detained Shaykhs and that this leadership enjoys the support of the majority of the Front's supporters.

In his two sermons, Imam Mohamed Said stressed adherence to what he termed as the correct line and that strife for power on a path lined with flowers was rejected. This is a clear indication of the nonrecognition of the leadership represented by Hachemi Sahnouni and his companions who represent a wing in Echoura council, and the statement released by those last Wednesday evening represented only those who had signed it, in view of the spotaneous response to Imam Mohamed Said's two Friday sermons.

Leaning toward dialogue without submitting to any kind of repression and domination was also highlighted in the orator's words. Imam Mohamed Said said: We want dialogue, but if the regime persists with the line it is following now, namely severing the heads of the FIS, we will make it bear the responsibility for the return of the jihad line. This is also a clear indication that the methods of dealing by the logic of confrontation will remain in existence if the option of dialogue does not succeed.

Demand for the release of Shayks Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj is a persistent matter. It seems that the wing represented by Imam Mohamed Said is trying hard to secure the release of the two men and the other detainees and to reinstate the sacked workers to their posts and help the families of victims of the recent events.

Intention to hold a national conference of the FIS has become clear now, providing that it would be attended by Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. This was noted in a statement, number one, read before the sermons. We were not present while it was read but we were informed of its content.

After the two Friday sermons, statement number two was read. In it an announcement was made on an organizational meeting to be held by the FIS next week.

Defense Minister Speaks on Army Intervention

LD0707011191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2210 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Interview with Major General Khaled Nezzar, Algerian minister of defense, by an unidentified television reporter in an Algiers television studio on 6 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We have tried to get in touch with Major General Khaled Nezzar, the minister of national defense, to conduct an interview with him that could shed light on the many points that have been raised in the national arena, primarily concerning the role and position of the National People's Army in the current phase through which the country is passing. He was kind enough to accept our invitation and we thank him.

Defense Minister, since your appointment at the head of the Ministry of National Defense, you have not appeared in public. I believe this is your first television statement. What is the reason? Is it due to a special character trait or to other circumstances?

[Nezzar] It is true that this could be due to my character. There is no doubt that it is partly due to my character and partly due to the fact that we have special tasks, namely those of the National People's Army. We are undertaking numerous tasks, particularly restructuring the National People's Army. I am appearing today because the Army, which had a special mission, is now acting within the framework of actions which could be outside its scope and to which it is not accustomed. We are in a state of siege and undoubtedly I must speak.

[Reporter] Before we get to these points, minister, the Algerian people and the National People's Army, which is part of Algerian society, yesterday commemorated the 29th anniversary of Independence Day. How do you see the continuation between the National Liberation Army and the National People's Army?

[Nezzar] Yesterday we commemorated the 5 July anniversary and we wanted this date to be a huge feast because 5 July represents many things. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Well Mr. Minister, between 1988 and 1991 the national popular army found itself compelled, so to speak, to come to the streets. How do you find, your excellency, the similarities and differences between its move in 1988 and today and what are the circumstances which compelled it to come to the streets again?

[Nezzar] No doubt if we took to the streets, either in 1988 or today, it was not our desire. In fact, we wish we never took to the streets because the Army has work to do. [passage omitted]

Today it is another matter. No doubt democracy is difficult. Today it is another idea. We took to the streets because there is another situation, namely a civil disobedience and an attempt at an uprising by some who like to reach and be outside the rules of the game. Since 1988 the rules of the game have been laid down and we asked everyone to respect them. Some people, however, have bypassed those rules. No doubt the Army intervened in the interest of the people, in the interest of the majority, and we must say it is nearly 75 percent. It is a characteristic of the National Popular Army that when matters concern the majority of the people, the Army must respond because it is the army of the people.

As I said earlier, naturally we did not want to go out in the streets. Unfortunately, we did go out and we have done many things. We did not go out to repress the people, but we came out to put out the fire and we did our best. We looked at many things. The young people had to take the baccalaureat exams, the students had to take their university exams, and the people also needed to commemorate the 'Id.

Furthermore, the state needed to restore its position because the state must be strong. A minority who does not respect the laws of the state cannot get the upper hand over everybody. Praise be to God, everybody is happy today. On the other hand, I can say that undoubtedly our presence in the cities is not an easy matter. Our desire is to see calm prevail throughout the country so we can return to our tasks because there are many.

[Reporter] Minister, naturally we deduce that the National People's Army took to the streets, so to speak, to maintain order and stability and to safeguard the continuation of the democratic process and the democratic experiment which the country is conducting. Can you now give us an idea about the daily running of the state of siege? In other words, what are the facts? According to the information you receive, how did the citizens react to the presence of the Army in the street?

[Nezzar] I can say that on the whole the majority of the people reacted with satisfaction and there is no doubt about that. I can say this because we received many reports that the people received the news with satisfaction. The state of siege, in itself, restricts some liberties; there is no doubt about that. We acted in such a way as not to restrict liberties any further. In any case, there are commands and we had announced them. I am talking about the commanders of the military regions. We have seven regions, and each commander of a region is in charge of his region. The commander of the ground forces is in charge of Algiers. Some people were asking in some newspapers: Where are these commands? But we had already announced their existence. These commands exist and they act on the ground. We tried to make sure that not many liberties were restricted.

As you might have noticed, regarding the 'Id, the curfew was lifted. We also moved the start of the curfew to midnight, as of 7 July, in view of the fact that many families at that time need their freedom. We are always trying to prevent this siege from being a burden on the Algerian people. As you have seen, we have reduced the number of many military units in the capital and inside the cities. Naturally, when calm returns gradually-...[changes thought] We have initially said that the state of siege will last four months, but if there is total calm it is possible that we will lift the state of siege earlier. May I add something else?

[Reporter] Please do.

[Nezzar] Regarding the state of siege, we have left all the powers to the civilians. There are military people, but they are there only to guide these civilian officials. They might be doing some small work. We have done this so that the state of siege does not put pressure on either the officials or the people in general.

[Reporter] Minister, am I to understand that other tasks are awaiting the National People's Army, tasks which concern the National People's Army as an army?

[Nezzar] The Army has numerous tasks. We praise the national People's Army because it moved fast, particularly regarding its restructuring and its understanding of democracy. Today we came out, as we did in 1962, to defend democracy. God willing, there will be democracy in Algeria. We are in favor of democracy. There are hopes and the restructuring is not complete. We are proceeding, and God willing we will succeed in this undertaking.

The one thing we would like to say is that it is necessary to implement the Republic's laws so that we, God willing, will reach the aim and get out of the situation we are in.

One thing I would like to tell the citizens is that in order to reach the goal, we need calm. By calm, and especially through dialogue and by contacts, we no doubt are going to solve our problems. Without calm we can not reach our goal. We know there are problems, some big problems, particularly with those who could not find employment [words indistinct]. We ask them to be calm. With calm we will, no doubt, arrive at something. We must point out that capabilities are available in the country, but we must exploit them. The state of siege is not a good thing internally or externally. Within three years Algeria entered a state of siege twice. This does not reflect a pretty face. We have to come out of this state of affairs. In order to come out of it Algerians must reach a common understanding. No doubt if the Algerians arrive at a mutual understanding, we can find solutions to the existing problems, God willing.

Islamic Front Leader Arrested at News Conference

LD0707173191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] In the homeland, security men intervened this afternoon to stop a news conference called by Imam

Mohamed Said of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. At this news conference, the imam said that he had been appointed by a consultative nucleus as an executive official in charge and an FIS official spokesman until the convening of its conference. Radio correspondent Ammar Boudharba, who returned a short while ago from the municipality of Kouba [in Algiers] where the news conference was held, said Imam Mohamed Said had been arrested by the security men.

Details of News Conference

LD0707200891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Imam Mohamed Said, who has been known for days as a prominent Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] figure, was arrested this afternoon by the security authorities. The operation took place when the imam was holding a news conference in Kouba municipality in which he announced he had been appointed an FIS executive in charge and official spokesman until the holding of the FIS congress. More details in the report of our correspondent at the news conference, Amar Bouderba:

[Bouderba] In his news conference, Mr. Mohamed Said explained the reasons for FIS staging an open political strike and the results that stemmed from that strike. Mr. Mohamed Said denied that FIS chose to reach power through violence or armed confrontation. FIS's fourth man also emphasized that the leadership is committed to the unity of Algeria, to sparing the blood of Algerians, and to preserving social peace. He also stressed that FIS does not want to get into labyrinths with no beginning or end. He reiterated FIS's wish to adopt dialogue and its commitment to it as a means to solve all existing problems.

Mr. Mohamed Said also pointed out that dissolving FIS will preserve the reasons of the current political crisis. He emphasized FIS's commitment to legitimacy, openness, clean political competition, and honorable political action.

In his replies to questions, FIS's fourth man said that the charges against the FIS leadership were merely a farse accurately planned by the regime. Mr. Mohamed Said reiterated the commitment of the FIS leadership to continue the political march under the banner of legitimacy and openness. He expressed his hopes that FIS would never go back to working secretly, because it would not be in the interests of the country.

Mr. Mohamed Said emphaszied the necessity of releasing the detainees, with Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj at their forefront; reinstating those sacked from their jobs; compensating the families of victims; lifting the state of siege; and opening a dialogue with FIS. He denied that he called for jihad in a speech at the last Friday prayers.

Mr. Mohamed Said informed those attending that a nucleus Shura Majlis [Consulative Council] has been formed and that he would be its temporary executive in charge and official spokesman, and Abdelkader Hashani would be his deputy.

During his replies to press questions, the security forces stormed the festival hall while FIS supporters chanted and shouted Allah Akbar. The attendants were forced to leave the hall. Following the evacuation of the hall, Cheikh Mohamed Said was arrested by the security forces without any tangible incidents of violence.

FIS Urges Elected Officials To Resume Duties

LD0707175991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] In a communique signed by its chairman, Mr. Said Guechi, the National Committee for Organization and Coordination of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] made an appeal in which it urged its elected member officials in municipalities and governorate councils to resume their activities immediately in the citizens' interests, by laying down the foundations of dialogue and consultation in the framework of laws and legality, to guarantee full efficiency of these councils. The committee also urged the elected FIS members to speed up achievements of public interest, to process all files concerning both the present and the future, and to abandon some work ethics which have been observed.

Authorities Search FIS Headquarters, Mosque

LD0707191791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] APS reports from 'Ain Defla that the security forces this afternoon entered Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Wilya headquarters and the basement of the Khadra mosque in 'Ain Defla. The search operation continued for more than an hour, after which persons, documents, and other things—which are still unknown—were taken in cars belonging to the security authorities.

8,000 Arrested, 300 Killed in 'Confrontation'

LD0707152891 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Eight thousand people were arrested and three hundred were killed in the recent confrontation between security forces and Islamists which has been taking place since 4 June in Algeria. This toll was made public today by the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

Army Withdraws Tanks From Algiers 8 July

LD0807093291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] The Army today withdrew its tanks from the main roads in the heart of the capital. A few days ago, the military authorities withdrew some of their troops from

the capital, and reduced the military presence in Algiers. It is worth mentioning that Defense Minister Major General Khalid Nezzar has declared that if calm returned to the country, the state of siege would be lifted.

Commentary Views Differences Within FIS

LD0707203591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Berhoum Boudjema commentary]

[Text] Will the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] recover its health and its forces after the rift which hit it? This is a question which has remained pending since the arrest of [FIS leaders] Cheikh Abassi Madani and Cheikh Ali Belhadj. The answer comes from Cheikh Mohamed Said to whom, it has been echoed, the provisional leadership of the Front goes, having been entrusted by Abassi Madani while being arrested. The blessing [of his nomination by Madani] took place when he led the prayers of crowds of people in the Sunna Mosque in Bab El Oued last Friday.

Cheikh Mohamed Said affirmed that the Front remained as it was, despite the fragmentation which took place in its ranks. He pointed out that the group led by Sahnouni and Ali Guechi which signed a statement calling for the convening of a congress of the Front represented only themselves. A group from the [FIS] Consultative Council, including Sahnouni, Bachir Fekih, Ahmed Merrani, and Imam revealed the existence of deep divergences inside the Front. One man among this group, Bachir Fekih, announced openly however that Cheikh Abassi Madani was a danger for the Front. This was considered in the views of Cheikh Mohamed Said and some of the symbols in the Islamic leadership as a conspiracy being hatched against the Front to tarnish its leading role, arouse doubts over its march, and create confusion in its ranks.

Those who are versed in political affairs on the national arena do not rule out the existence of differences inside the Islamic Front. These, however, are not as deep as some describe. They also see that the differences in the views and the method of political action are natural in a young party which has practiced political action early. In observers' views, the problem posed is the sudden emergence of the group of Sahnouni and Bachir Fekih and the time chosen to make the situation explode and highlight the differences without giving other quarters a chance to clarify the stance and reply to the statements attributed to them.

Some observers go further in their analysis as they see that some elements were persuaded in one way or another to detonate the bomb. These believe also that the Front, as a whole and since its victory in the municipal and provincial elections of 12 June, was pushed into making mistakes and make it inevitably appear in a light that puts it in a defensive position that some characterize as violent. They see also that the Front has perhaps made a mistake in its selection operation which made it not control fully some groups who have slipped away from it and preferred violence as a means to come to power.

The internal factors are perhaps not the only ones which sped up what happened, if we consider the extremist stance of some parties that wear the cloak of democracy and were waiting for the opportunities to discredit the Front and the stance of the Islamic current as a whole, after the incidence of what we may call a crack in the Islamic Front. As a matter of fact it has been noticed that there is a race for sharing the legacy and polarizing the grass roots of the Front.

That was on the internal level while on another plane regional and international factors have contributed to a large extent to creating a mist, skepticism, and misunderstanding over the changes taking place in our country. Many were disturbed by Algeria's experiment and had difficulty breathing. The issue is not about one party or another; it is basically related to the democratic experiment in our country. In addition to this—given by Western information to the Islamic current in Algeria—there are prejudices and premeditated intentions as this current had no sooner been mentioned than it was described as violent and terrorist and connected to other religious trends that have nothing to do with Islamic revival in Algeria.

Ghozali Addresses National Assembly 4 July

LD0507114991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1940 GMT 4 Jul 91

["Excerpts" of address by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali on the government program to an extraordinary session of the National People's Assembly in Algiers on 4 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God and thanks be to God, prayers and peace be upon the messenger of God. Mr. Speaker, gentlemen and ladies, honorable deputies: Peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you. I stand before you today with the same spirit that spurred me before the formation of the government which I present to you today. This spirit continued to prompt me throughout the wide-ranging consultations I had with all the parties, popular organizations, associations of a national character, and also with many personalities representing all sections of society, foremost his excellency the National Assembly speaker, who was among the first person to whom I disclosed the content of the mission entrusted to me. I benefitted from the sincerity of their sound advice.

As to the content of this mission, I said, and continue to believe, that the top priority of anyone who wants to render a service to this country is embodied in enabling the Algerian people to choose the first National Council within the framework of the multiparty system approved by the 23 February Constitution as soon as possible and under the best conditions. This priority constitutes a precondition which will enable the Algerian nation to

mobilize all its energies to devote itself totally to solving its real problems, which as you know—and I will have the opportunity to return to them—are many, difficult, and complicated.

Why am I stressing this precondition? Because it is time for our country and our people to turn the page of the ambiguity of legality and come out of the vicious circle we were pushed into. This almost organic obstacle affects directly, and negatively, the ability of the public authorities to solve citizens' daily problems, a matter which leads to the accumulation and complexity of these problems and affects the legitimacy of the authorities who are consequently doomed to submit to continuous and increasing resistance.

You are well aware, dear brother and sisters, that no government is able to work without the effective participation of all citizens. This participation must be based on the precondition that this government, liked or not, is considered to be one of their free choice, and is not considered to be imposed on them. To accept this idea of free choice is based on the citizen's conviction about this while relying on the determination of this government in first convincing the people and second on its ability to convey its program to the people.

From this premise, you can understand my concern about dialogue and absolute openness regarding anything that bears upon the issues of national interest. Dialogue is important because our people are keen on whoever is attentive to them, whoever understands them, whoever addresses them as a responsible people and reveals the whole truth sincerely with all good and bad involved. Openness is important because we must end the state of isolation the people were in. No issue of national importance can be successful unless it is adopted by all and is treated on that basis.

As for the priority aim, which consists of preparing legislative elections, I indicated to all those I met—and I reiterate it today—my desire to listen within the framework of a structure for dialogue that I intend to set up. I am saying that I want to listen to everyone's ideas regarding the conditions and guarantees that should be secured so that no one doubts the citizens' free choice and the cleanness of elections.

What are these conditions and what are those guarantees? My immediate answer is that I do not want to have any premature ideas. What matters to me, however, is the final result, that is, a project that acquires wide agreement and gives the citizens the strongest guarantees concerning the entire sincerity of the elections. I will obviously be glad to discuss them with you. In fact, creating the post of minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of relations with the National People's Assembly and associations is aimed at actually recording this dialogue and providing for the exchange of views between us.

I do not have preconceived ideas. I would have wished in particular to meet more workers. The nation's functionaries, those men and women who worked, and are still working, despite difficult conditions, silently, in self-denial, facing misunderstanding and ingratitude at times. As I have been one of those functionaries and still consider myself as such, this does not prevent me from praising them and expressing my gratitude to them. I tell them: Your country will always need your experience, self-denial, and creative genius. You will be called, whenever possible, to fully take part in consultation and dialogue, which the government intends to continue with all the dynamic forces of the nation.

I did not find among those I talked with one person who belittled the seriousness of the situation through which we are going. All agree that our country has lived through dark hours, as acts of violence have saddened families—to whom I once again renew the expression of the government's deep distress and most sincere condolences. [passage omitted]

To allow any party to aspire to reach power by violence or attempt to achieve its objectives, whatever they are, by nondemocratic means and total disregard for the law can only lead to the evaporation of the hope of reaching the state of the law. Also, no party, organization, or group has the right to list in its program, or to practice openly or implicitly, the need to resort to violence, bargaining, or the use of force. Anyone who tries this deems himself to have intentionally sought a violent clash with the popular will because it is not possible to claim legitimate existence while declaring the will and intention to work outside legitimacy. [passage omitted]

It is the right of the public authorities and all institutions at all levels, more than ever before, to observe the common rules and requirements of democracy, that is, once more, consultation, dialogue, fair play, and respect of existing laws as long as they are not changed by the people through their true representatives. [sentence as heard] This matter requires a blatant rejection of the repression exercised by the power given by historical conditions to these or those [as heard], a matter which imposes itself as a necessary contribution by everyone for the sake of the credibility of the general march.

Your Excellency Mr. Speaker, brothers and sisters. We hear from our towns and rural areas that Algerians appreciate unanimously the patriotism and self-control shown by their armed forces. The officers, the noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and the security forces have given proof of how the law and the Constitution should be respected with all the resoluteness required, despite the critical situation, all in respect of the citizen and his rights. This is why I reiterate to them here the gratitude of the nation and the government.

Destiny decreed that the National Liberation Army led the people's heroic fight for national liberation until it achieved its aim. Destiny also decreed that the National People's Army, which is the faithful descendant of the

glorious Liberation Army, is an active factor in the process of final liberation for the Algerians, for it has provided the proof that it is the protective shield of the democratic process, thus realizing another great patriotic achievement.

The sole ambition which spurs me on while leading this government is for history to record that it was the Algerian Government that worked for the realization of this achievement. This is my ambition. I have no other ambition.

Mr. Speaker, you know that the members of my government had announced in advance that they would not nominate themselves for election. The triumph of this government would then lie in the actual holding of free and clean elections and not in the victory of this or that person or the winning by this or that party of a number of seats. The sole guarantee of our sincerity in these elections is our impartiality.

The Algerian nation, which has been attached to Islam for 14 centuries, has ingested from it the qualities of tolerance, respect for life, and acceptance of others; if we want to establish, consolidate, and secure our young democracy, it is necessary to define the content, which is liable to enjoy wide consensus and to continuously scrutinize what is necessary for its application.

Mr Speaker, gentlemen, and ladies: Here I have reached the political and central mission of the government, but at a time when preparations are taking place for the historic date in the life of the Algerian people. Life goes on. There are needs that must be met, and there are daily problems that must be solved. Meanwhile, problems relating to the future inevitably emerge, and someone must embark on solving them. All this is nothing but the mission of the government. Before I dwell on the total sum of the economic and social problems awaiting the government, and with the aim of contributing to clarifying things, I want to deal with an issue that has been raised. It concerns the direction the government intends to take. Will the new government, as some have asked, continue the policy of the outgoing government or amend it? Will the government continue the reforms or will it retreat from them? And will it only settle the ordinary issues?

I say, first and foremost, that I am not one of those who carry that kind of mentality, one which requires that whenever an official is appointed to a new post he must focus first on destroying what his predecessor had done. Our country has paid a costly price because of this kind of bad habit. This pushes us to eliminate and remove it from our political behavior. As far as I am concerned, I say there is no reason whatever to think of keeping this behavior, which we should all denounce. On the contrary, I believe that we have an opportunity here to rehabilitate the idea that reaching a certain level of responsibility can only be an opportunity for everyone of us to add new bricks in constructing the common edifice. It is certain that everyone has his own viewpoint on this. If one could call this a style, then my style is known among you. It is openness and truth. Some people ask about my government's stand regarding reforms. I am for reforms.

While I was the head of an important government institution, I was able to rectify the destructive effects of restrictive measures and bureaucratic controls. I am able to say, thanks to openness, that the reform, I think, is neither a mere concept, a theory, a means of insults, or the chanting of slogans that serve strategies aimed at capturing power. Reform is a collection of tangible activities with real and important effects on economic activity and citizens' lives. Most Algerians support economic reforms. Have we informed the people frankly of the contents and impact of the reforms on the lives of workers and consumers? Who, in this assembly or elsewhere, can say that he clearly understands both the compatibility and the effects of the reforms? Of course we endorse the laws of the market and competition. We endorse the laws of the market, competition, and the means of organizing. All this carries great productive energies which could and should benefit our economic development. Regarding the laws of the market, it would be wrong to think that they are an entirely new phenomenon as far as our society and economy are concerned. It should not be thought that they alone could bring a total solution. As with any other country, there are economic mechanisms in Algeria capable of protecting those least able to cope with social and economic life, the weakest, and the most deprived.

The market economy is also aimed at obtaining good results and does not rule out the recourse to national solidarity. The current government actions consist of consolidating gains, complementing unfinished work, rectifying that which did not yield the aspired positive results due to various reasons, and making improvements.

I am sure that you feel the need to point to the advent of a regular and sane custom which consists of objectively assessing our real situation in all spheres. This periodic examination, which some call a survey of the situation, must be carried out by bodies independent from the regime so that the survey can be used as an indisputable reference and as a stimulative proof aimed at informing the public and improving the image and activities of the various interactors in the political, economic, cultural, and social life in the country.

Regarding external balances, their deterioration has continued so much that the reserves of the Algerian Central Bank have decreased to a critical and weak level. This has become one of the main sources of serious concern for the government. It should be noted here that the sacrifices made for the nation in the economic and social spheres did not prevent the financial situation from seriously deteriorating. My government has only a few

weeks remaining to resolve this problem, i.e., to mobilize new resources to recover a permanent balance in expenditures.

On the economic and social level, the lack of national unanimity has increased, bearing in mind that the actions of the decisionmakers are generally far from their declared political intentions. Such disagreement led in most cases to the opposite of the aspirations of the consumers and workers in the public sector, whom we frequently considered to be responsible for the economic deterioration.

The planned economic system, whether planned or private [as heard], has disintegrated to a point where it has become difficult to rejuvenate it. Despite this, every individual, wherever he is, should become versed in the concepts of (?interaction and decisionmaking). I strongly stress that the aspiration to meet consumer needs is a legitimate one. No group of women or men can fulfill this aspiration without accepting to work usefully and seriously. Any society which does not accord the greatest consideration to work carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction. Conversely, concerning resources, our country possesses an asset which could prove decisive. By this I mean the natural underground resources, particularly natural gas and oil. These resources are especially valuable in the present phase for they constitute the decisive means which could, both in the short- and medium-terms, lead us out of the economic crisis through our own means. This is an encouraging fact, one which is irreplaceable and unavoidable.

Concerning the decisionmaking organizations, the economic reforms have indeed given priority to consultation over decisionmaking within the administrative bodies. Work should begin so that many kinds of businessmen could guarantee the government's economic policy, particularly the monetary and loan bodies, contribution funds, and institutions. Actual experience has shown that in order to achieve this, appropriate frameworks should be found with a view to developing cooperation and hastening the necessary decisions. It is clear that economic reform cannot be credible without preparing open programs of action, clarifying every relevant person's role within these, and the inaugurating a real and tangible change in the public sector in order to continuously improve its actions and results. The matter, ladies and gentlemen, at all times concerns restoring the credibility of decisions and decisionmakers.

Concerning the sphere of institutions, we should naturally prepare the financial law, the annual plan for 1992. We will also propose to you a supplementary law on finance for 1991. We should restudy compensatory taxes. We will continue the process of economic reforms in order to clarify these reforms and make them compatible and comprehensible.

Esteemed Mr. Speaker, the main effects of the changes that have been made recently to the methods of national economic management are represented in the turning of the economic and social equilibrium in the country to a degree that weakened the fragile balances upon which it had been primarily based. The methods that had been adopted to encourage the market economy have not achieved the expected positive effect, that is redeployment, especially as it pertains to the revival of growth. Instead they have given rise to serious disparities in income which have placed increasing groups of citizens in a deplorable state. Wage-based purchasing power and unemployment are not unrelated. A country such as ours enjoys structures which enable the utilization of national solidarity between workers and the unemployed. This has emerged in ways such as subsidizing the prices of staple products. The rise in unemployment is preventing the wage-based purchasing power from developing positively.

Esteemed Mr. Speaker, brothers and sisters: We should be aware that any situation concerning the productivity of the factors of production could not improve the wage-based purchasing power without being at the expense of the institution itself, the owner of capital, the company, the company's capital, or at the expense of national solidarity. The government, which had previously stressed its position that economic development should not be at the expense of the workers, also stresses that the increase of the wage-based purchasing power, we all hope, should be built on an increase in productivity and should not be at the expense of national solidarity, especially the unemployed and other persons who have no income.

Esteemed Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, honorable delegates: It was my hope to tell you frankly and clearly about how the government perceives the current situation, its complexity, and its seriousness. In both the political and social spheres, this situation is characterized simultaneously by confusion in the face of an overwhelming and ambiguous present and fear in the face of the deterioration which, God forbid, might bring disturbances that are difficult to control to our country.

We have given priority to holding free and fair elections. That is a matter which meets an urgent demand in this country, especially at this time, the demand of the Algerian people. We are convinced that our people will help us fulfill it. I [words indistinct] during the statement which I was honored to present to you to propose more than one program. Thus, I drew a methodical plan which not only provides all the solutions but also lays down the issues facing our people with a view to finding a solution to them. For is it not said that a question that is put well carries within it half of the solution? What would be the meaning of a program that is built upon real hopes in the possibility of possessing sufficient resources in a situation such as the one we are experiencing, which is characterized by all these great doubts? Concerning the long term, I said that those resources that do in fact exist will be mobilized in Algeria. I also said that mobilizing resources, especially combustibles, will enable us to lay down the first cornerstone in our march toward restoring our future.

Concerning the short term, that depends on our ability to borrow; that is, it is linked to the position adopted by the

world toward our country. Such a position depends on the image we give the world. In view of the scarcity of assured resources, no program could be anything but conditional. Loyalty and sincerity stipulate that a conditional program such as this one should not be accepted. [sentence as heard]

I prefer to propose the philosophy of action which I intend to implement. This is beyond argument, despite the fact that the ways by which it could be implemented depend on time. Without going back to questions concerning political life, I want to explain the main landmarks which will be directing all of our work as if they were magnetic poles. I do not want to be the prisoner of two choices, the sweetest of which is bitter: the structure which guarantees maximum output or the one which treats people as equal. Whenever the need to make a choice imposes itself, I prefer more social justice.

As far as those who forget or are forgetting the position of social justice and its implications in a country such as ours are concerned, I remind them of the idea of a great Arab thinker who said woe unto a nation that hates injustice while asleep and forgets it while it is awake. This is what I am thinking about and saying, whether the matter concerns relations between capital and the world, which are the two basic and inseparable cornerstones in any institution, or whether it concerns relations within the world of those who work and those who no longer have, or have never had, such luck. These also are two inseparable conceptions.

I am aware that it is no longer possible to promise everyone everything immediately. I am also aware that it is no longer possible to find any decision or any axis which would benefit everyone. Every decision, irrespective of its type, consists of beneficial and negative dimensions, and every cloud has a silver lining. My commitment is not to propose or find solutions that fall within the realm of miracles but to tell the nation all that is necessary. What are the social costs of our policy? Especially, what are the social categories who should bear them?

I think that our people's inclination toward consumerism represents an opportunity for economic and even political development. If an end is placed on profligacy and the search for luxuries, this inclination could assume a form of legitimacy; then the efforts which could improve productivity could be focused, given our possession of great energies. If this inclination is matched by our ancient conception of justice, then we would have democracy, whether economic, social, or political democracy.

Esteemed President, brother and sister honorable delegates: The situation of our country is characterized by a disequilibrium and the disintegration of all kinds of structures. Thus, the lines of action which we will take care to adopt are clear. These require the government to behave in accordance with the principles which I have announced. My appeal to you, honorable lady and gentelemen delegates, is to endorse [words indistinct].

Esteemed president: The current situation is dangerous in a number of ways and calls for devotion to thinking because it is the core of great decisions among peoples. The security of individuals and property which we now need in the cities, rural areas, streets, paths, public places, and mosques is a matter which the state should ensure, otherwise it will lose its credibility.

Concerning the financial pressures that are threatening the course of our economy and the fulfillment of the citizens' social needs today, this is a task of your government, which will seek to lighten the burden of the pressure. What justification would it have if it does not do all those things and discharge those duties which are in fact its raison d'etre? The government should devote itself to those political, economic, and financial tasks. The opportunity should be opened for it, and it should be given real support for the program which I am proposing. Thus, social order should be established and maintained because nothing lasting can be achieved unless doubt about the security of Algerians and their property is removed.

In addition to the permanent establishment of social order, our people should make reconciliation with itself. Thus, the coming election dates will be, if our people desire—and I am sure they will desire—celebrations of democracy or, in other words, celebrations of unity and harmony among the sons of the nation after the threats of disintegration. When the current uprisings of anger have ended, it will become clear that we could indeed control the evil within ourselves. Every society has its evils. It will also become clear that we could be reconciled among ourselves and with our past, especially the recent past. Only then could our people, once it has restored its reassurance, turn toward its future with confidence and unity.

For the sake of that, I appeal to every male and female and to every organization to put a speedy end to these disturbances so that, I must say, it can govern the future and enable our great people to reawaken and restore its self-confidence and its confidence in all its great energies. This future—and we have not managed to be clearly aware of its form—this future will only be in accordance with what we collectively decide. This future undoubtedly consists of uncertainties as well as hopes. The Algerian people have sufficient strength and the necessary courage to face the future without reservations or fear. Our people have sufficient strength to face this future, unfolding before them, so they can find within themselves the moral resources which they know how to save for great predicaments.

In conclusion, I appeal for everyone's help. [passage omitted] May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Egypt

Musa on Gulf Security, Disarmament, Peace Process

NC0607150991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 July (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reiterated that no security arrangements can be attempted in the Arab region without Egypt's participation or consultation with it.

In a statement he made today, 'Amr Musa said Egypt's stand is based on the premise that every Arab country has the right to express its view of how Arab security is to be achieved and that Arab viewpoints must be heard. He added that the Arab security order will then be set up in light of these Arab viewpoints so it will correspond with Arab positions and will be achieved through understanding and within the framework of Arab charters.

The foreign minister said the meeting Tuesday between the foreign ministers of the eight countries that signed the Damascus Declaration in Damascus will cover the issue of Arab security in the Gulf region according to this declaration and in light of the draft plan prepared by these countries' experts, who met in Doha at the end of June.

Egypt, Syria, and the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] are the signatories to the Damascus Declaration.

'Amr Musa said that differences in viewpoints is a "healthy sign" because the Arab security issue is very important, and all view points must be discussed to reach the best formula for maintaining security in the Gulf region based on the general (Arab) principles and charters.

During his news conference—attended by representatives of Gulf and Egyptian newspapers, news agencies, and radios—the foreign minister stressed that the Gulf security issue concerns achieving regional Arab security. He said Egypt has made proposals for disarmament and limiting arms in the Middle East in view of the initiatives by Presidents Husni Mubarak, Francois Mitterrand, and George Bush. He stressed the importance of incorporating all the countries of the region, including Israel, in this.

The foreign minister then said there are ongoing contacts with the Damascus Declaration signatories to coordinate positions, and he stressed Egypt's belief in the importance of clearing the Arab atmosphere. He said that the Arab world must look to the future following the recent grave crisis. In this respect, he praised President Mubarak's call for rallying Arab ranks and for considering the lessons learned from what has happened based on respect for Arab and international legitimacy.

The foreign minister stressed that Egypt has strong relations with the GCC countries and Syria. He added that contacts with these countries are constant.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, 'Amr Musa said these are going through a phase where they need action to improve them and move them forward.

The Egyptian foreign minister stressed that the visit by Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Egypt was more than successful, and that during his stay consultations on bilateral relations were held at the highest levels.

On the issue of peace in the Middle East, 'Amr Musa said that President George Bush's initiative is still alive. He added that there are contacts to ensure its success and to hold the Middle East peace conference. He said that Egypt is coordinating with the Arab parties and the Palestinians because the peace conference could not be held with the Palestinians' participation. He stressed that settlement of the Palestinian issue is the basis for achieving peace and stability in the region and the world. He said that a solution must be found for this problem in accordance with the UN resolutions, expressing his hope that the peace conference will be held this year.

'Amr Musa reiterated Egypt's position that the continued construction of Israeli settlements impedes the peace process and conflicts with it, as well as with Security Council Resolution 242. He said Israel must halt the construction of illegal settlements, stressing that they do not have a legal status. He added that Egypt is exerting efforts to halt the construction of these settlements in the occupied territories.

Ghali Nominated for UN Secretary General Post

NC0707134891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 July (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt has decided to nominate Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, to the post of secretary general of the United Nations.

A number of African countries have named their candidates to occupy this distinguished international position within the context of nominations from the African continent.

The UN secretary general post will be vacant at the end of this year when current UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's term in office ends.

Mubarak, Advisers Said Working To Replace Shamir

TA0707190891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] The Egyptian president and his advisers believe that as long as Yitzhaq Shamir is Israel's prime minister, it will be impossible to promote the peace process. It is therefore necessary to aspire to have him replaced. The above emerges from reports that reached Jerusalem today. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has additional information, and he reports from the studio:

The fresh reports that arrived in Jerusalem had come from very reliable sources. It turns out that, among other things, President Mubarak and his close advisers are worried about the freeze in the political process and their inability to promote the U.S. peace initiative. Their conclusion is that it is necessary to work toward the creation of circumstances that would result in the replacement of Yitzhaq Shamir, otherwise it will be impossible to make progress toward peace.

As for the fact that it has been a long time since the last visit between senior officials from Israel and Egypt, it transpires from the report that there is a decision in principle to invite Foreign Minister David Levi to Egypt, but no date has been set yet. The visit will take place only under the appropriate circumstances, though when this will happen is not yet clear.

The Egyptian leaders also have no objection to meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, but only if they are convinced—and I quote—that this will lead to a positive shift in Israel's position.

According to Israeli experts, the Egyptians are under pressure. They serve as the de facto channel of information between Washington and Damascus. While the Americans expect results, the Syrians have not, as far as is known, reacted to the peace initiative, so that everyone is beginning to lose their patience.

In reaction to the reports from Cairo, a source at the prime minister's office said that Egypt must realize that it must work with the Israeli Government and with the man who heads it. It is not beneficial for the Egyptians to dabble in domestic Israeli politics. The prime minister's office also noted that, in a peace process, it is necessary to work together with the Israeli Government, not against it.

Musa: GCC, Syria Meeting in Kuwait Postponed

NC0707132491 Cairo MENA in English 1248 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 July (MENA)—The meeting of the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and Egypt and Syria slated to be held on Tuesday in Kuwait was postponed for some days. This was stated by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The meeting was put off in view of some engagements of the GCC foreign ministers, he noted.

PRC Joint Communique Issued on Li Peng Visit

NC0507151291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 July (MENA)—Egypt and China have stressed the need to achieve a peaceful, just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement in the Middle East. The two nation's declared their support for current peace efforts and urged the parties involved to cooperate with these efforts in order to attain a settlement.

These statements were released as part of a joint Egyptian-Chinese communique issued in Cairo today on the occasion of Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to Egypt.

Egypt and China emphasized that the best way to reach a regional settlement is to hold an international peace conference that the UN Security Council's permanent members and other parties concerned will attend.

The communique called for appropriate preparation to be made before the conference on the basis of regaining the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It added that preparation should also be done so as to guarantee security for all the countries and peoples of the region, including Israel.

China expressed its appreciation for Egypt's efforts to promote the peace process and strengthen solidarity and cooperation among Arab countries.

Egypt voiced its appreciation for the PRC's policies that are illustrated by its permanent support for the Arab peoples' and Palestinian people's causes.

Egypt and China said they believe that controlling regional arms purchases must be achieved on balanced, comprehensive, and effective principles that apply to all the region's countries without exception. They called for banning all types of weapons of mass destruction, chiefly nuclear weapons, from the region and establishing a strict inspection and verification mechanism. China announced its support for the Egyptian initiative to make the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

The two sides discussed with great interest the developments in the Gulf and said they believe that the negative effects of the Gulf crisis must be eliminated as quickly as possible. They noted the importance of a UN role in achieving regional security and stability.

The two sides discussed the situation in Africa and, while declaring their appreciation for the positive changes in South Africa, they urged its government to follow the movement of history by adopting additional constructive methods to achieve a serious democratic dialogue that will lead to a unified and democratic society in that country that will fuse together all ethnic diversities. They also stressed the need for solidarity and cooperation among African nations and for resolving African disputes within the OAU and in accordance with its charter.

The communique said that Egypt and China exchanged views on the current international situation and believe that despite the improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations, the progress made on disarmament, and the settlement of some regional disputes, some obstacles remain. These obstacles, the nations said, adversely affect the attainment of international stability.

The two sides expressed their concern about the international economic situation, particularly the downturn facing developing countries, the growing South-North gap, and the exacerbation of the debt issue. They agreed that it is necessary to change this unfair situation and stressed the importance of promoting South-South cooperation as a primary objective to establish an effective and equitable South-North dialogue.

The two countries believe that a new international order must be founded on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonaggression, nonintervention in other countries' internal affairs, equality, mutual interests, and peaceful coexistence.

They also believe that each country has the right to choose its own system of government and that the difference between such systems must not prevent cooperation and the establishment of normal relations among all countries regardless of size or capability. All countries have an equal right to participate in the discussions on international issues and seek solutions for them. The PRC and Egypt assert that international disputes must be resolved by peaceful means and in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

The countries expressed their satisfaction at the positive development of the firm ties of cooperation and friendship between the two countries following 35 years of diplomatic relations.

The two countries expressed their determination to make additional joint efforts to develop and strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between them in political, economic, trade, technological, and cultural spheres to fulfill the interests of the two peoples and to contribute to world peace and development.

The two sides emphasized the importance and usefulness of exchanging visits and meetings between their leaders in order to bolster their amicable cooperation in all fields.

PRC State Council Premier Li Peng conveyed to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak an invitation from PRC President Yang Shangkun to visit the People's Republic of China. He also extended a similar invitation to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. President Mubarak and Dr. Sidqi accepted the invitations. The dates for the visits will be determined later through diplomatic channels.

Li Peng's Cairo News Conference

NC0507202791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 July (MENA)—PRC Premier Li Peng has described his official visit to Egypt and the talks he held with President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials as successful. He said he believes that the visit will bolster the good relations that already exist between Egypt and the PRC.

Speaking at a news conference held tonight at the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace, Li Peng praised the massive achievements made in Egypt under the rule of President Mubarak. He said that he is pleased to see so much progress being made in Egypt.

Li said that he discussed the international situation, Middle East developments, and bilateral ties with President Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

The PRC premier said that Egypt and the PRC are continuously exchanging views and that cooperation is underway in various fields. He added that relations between the two countries are exemplary.

Li replied to a question about Middle East arms limitation by saying that arms limitation should be comprehensive in the sense that it should be applied to all countries equally and that all the arms brought into the region should be subject to supervision [taht al-muraqabah].

Premier Li said that the fact that some countries in the region have a large number of arms without any supervision creates an atmosphere of imbalance and is a security threat. He added that arms exports to countries that have large numbers of military units should be stopped. Li said that arms exports to the Middle East should be confined to defensive weapons only and that an agreement to this effect should be reached.

The premier said that talks about Middle East arms limitations should lead to the establishment of peace, a matter which would benefit all the people of the region.

Asked if the PRC intends to stop the sale of missiles to the region, specifically to Syria, Li denied that his country has ever sold any missiles to Syria. He noted that there are other countries that have been and still are exporting such weapons to countries in the region.

Li was asked whether the topic of PRC-manufactured spare parts for Soviet weapons was discussed in his talks. He said that he did not discuss any military issues in the Cairo talks and that the talks focused primarily on Middle East peace as well as economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

On whether a specific agreement was reached on economic and commercial cooperation with Egypt, the PRC premier said: We have discussed economic and technological cooperation. However, because the visit was a brief one, we agreed to leave detailed discussions to the Egyptian-Chinese joint committee which will meet in the near future.

Li Peng mentioned that Egypt and the PRC have issued a joint communique defining their position on international issues and the Middle East peace process.

Li was asked about the Middle East security arrangements in the wake of the Gulf war and the Chinese position on the various proposals in this respect. He said that the Middle East conflict has been a fact of life for a

long time and that it constitutes a threat to the region's people and economy as well as to neighboring regions.

Premier Li said that the PRC believes that now is the time to solve the region's problems and said that the solution should be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Li said that the Chinese Government believes that intensive efforts should be exerted to solve these problems. He added that an international peace conference for the Middle East should be held and that the permanent members of the UN Security Council should participate. He pointed out that the PRC also supports initiatives made by other sides to solve the Middle East problem.

The PRC premier said that a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem should preserve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and also guarantee Israel's security. He added that the UN Security Council should play a role in the peace process and that the Middle East and Gulf countries should also take an active role in solving the problem.

Answering a question on PRC relations with Israel and Iraq, the PRC premier said that diplomatic relations do not exist between China and Israel. Lately, he said, there have been exchanges between Chinese and Israeli scientific institutes aiming to exchange scientific and technological expertise, but these exchanges do not take place in a government-to-government framework. Li said that relations between the PRC and Iraq are normal and there is nothing more to say on the matter.

During the news conference, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen answered a question on his country's stand on the Yugoslav crisis. He said that China is following the situation with great interest, adding that peaceful consultations should be given a chance so that Yugoslavia can remain a stable country.

Li Peng Leaves for Amman

NC0607073891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0716 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 July (MENA)—PRC Premier Li Peng left Cairo for Amman this morning following a four-day official visit which was part of his tour of a number of Middle Eastern countries. The PRC premier received an official farewell and was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and other senior government officials. During his visit, Li Peng held talks with President Husni Mubarak and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on international issues of common concern, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf and bilateral cooperation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Gulf War, Terrorism, Chad

PM0507144291 Paris LE FIGARO in French 4 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Pierre Darcourt; date, place not given]

[Text] [Darcourt] Colonel, what do you think are the repercussions of the Gulf War on the Arab world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The fighting speaks for itself. Everything has been said about the military aspect. The Arab world is split in a rather unrealistic way. The Gulf conflict has highlighted inconsistencies which show that this crisis will not be the last. I think that there will soon be a similar conflict between North Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The former is an overpopulated country with desperate poverty. The latter is a state four times bigger than France with one third of the population—ostentatious wealth and few people.

These are what I call areas of high and low pressure. It is obvious that there will be a terrible storm before balance is restored. The Arab world is divided into two—the rich and the poor. The rich are in a minority. There are too many poor people. Ultimately a conflagration is inevitable. As an Arab people, we notice that the wealth accumulated by this minority, the profits from its oil which amount to hundreds of billions of dollars, are invested outside the Arab world. It is the West, the Americans, and the Zionist banks which are profiting from it. This is the real cause of the Gulf conflict. If this situation continues, the crisis may spread to other countries.

[Darcourt] Do you really think that the United States alone is responsible for the outbreak of hostilities?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I would like to clarify things. The United States did not act alone and could not conduct that war alone. Outside the UN framework, it would not have united such a wide range of allies. This war was not a bilateral problem between Iraq and the United States. Iraq had violated international law, it attacked Kuwait—a UN member. That is why the Iraqis perpetrated an act of aggression against the United Nations. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Emirates, which were directly threatened, were afraid. Syria, Egypt, and Morocco, other Arab or Muslim countries, and some African countries rallied to the coalition which comprised a total of 30 countries acting under UN auspices. The large-scale U.S. intervention was justified by the decisions made within the Security Council. The whole world followed them. This exceptional situation will certainly not recur in the case of a bilateral conflict between the United States and another country. One example which I would like to point out is that when the Americans launched their air raids on Tripoli and Bengazi in 1986, the United Nations disowned that lethal operation. The American position was unjustifiable. The proof of that is that the bombers which took off from Britain had to fly around France and Spain because their governments refused permission for overflight. I have not forgotten that.

[Darcourt] Why did Libya not openly side with the coalition instead of observing a cautious and reserved attitude?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First, I was personally opposed to Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. If Iraq had been attacked by

another power, I might have sided with it. That was not the case. Second, I repeat that the decision to wage war was made by the Security Council and I strongly support the United Nations. Finally, in the coalition, several Arab countries were directly involved and, in addition, around a dozen Arab populations supported Iraq and were making that known loud and clear. To avoid widening the gulf which had opened up among the Arab masses, I avoided adopting a clear-cut stance.

[Darcourt] Was that a way of keeping your options open for the future?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That's right.

[Darcourt] Nonetheless, the United States has emerged from the Gulf war with greater strength and credibility.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Probably. But it will not be able to play the role of the world's only policeman for a long time. In addition, it made every effort to protect Israel and safeguard the unity of the Arab countries in the coalition. The result is that, despite everything, Iraq—Israel's only major military rival in the Near East—was crushed without any Tsahal soldier being involved. The balance of power has been broken.

[Darcourt] Israel is not the only country to benefit from this war. Syria played a major role. President Hafiz al-Asad, Saddam Husayn's sworn enemy, took the opportunity to oust a dangerous rival and move closer to the Americans and assert his control over Lebanon.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, Syria seized the opportunity. But it does not present the same danger to the Arabs as Israel. It does not have nuclear weapons. Israel has 580 fighter planes and hundreds of extremely modern Merkava tanks. It has sophisticated missiles in the Patriot batteries supplied by the United States, advanced technology, and a daunting intelligence and action service—Mossad. It is also assured the unconditional support of the Zionist diaspora—financiers, scientists, researchers, and it has considerable influence in the Western media.

[Darcourt] The Western secret services accuse you of forming, financing, or manipulating terrorist networks, of supporting the IRA, of using the famous Carlos to form and train several terrorist groups in Sabha. They include Syrians, Iranians, Palestinians, and Caledonians. Some are specially trained in handling missiles or explosives to bring down or blow up planes in flight.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Let me first make one thing clear—I must state categorically that I do not know Carlos. I have never met him. He has never set foot in Libya. He is a professional killer—a mercenary without ideals or cause. Furthermore, I condemn blind and irresponsible attacks, bombs in public places, big stores, stations, airports. But do not lump terrorism together with the violence which is inseparable from a just and sacred struggle for freedom. All the members of liberation movements in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America have been or are described as terrorists. Some have become honorable and respected heads of government.

After the Black September massacre and their expulsion from Jordan, I gave the Palestinians a great deal of help. They are a people struggling by all possible means, including unarmed children fighting with stones. The Palestinians are struggling for recognition of their identity and their right to existence. They have no country, no flag, no passports. They are hounded, even in some Arab countries. I open my doors to them, just as I have supported other threatened fighters engaged in the movement to liberate their people. I did it for Sam Nujoma and the Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO]—his military organization which lost 12,000 men without winning an inch of ground.

And yet, in 1976, the United Nations recognized SWAPO as the Namibian people's sole authentic representative, and Sam Nujoma, the former terrorist leader, is now Namibia's head of state. I helped insurgent Captain Jerry Rawlings who is now master of Ghana and Blaise Compaore, Burkina Faso's new president. I also helped Yoweri Museveni, Ugandan head of state, who was OAU chairman until last year. The list of these former "terrorists" or "rebels" who attained power after years of clandestine existence and violence is not complete.

[Darcourt] Yes. But can you answer the question about the IRA?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Well. First, we have not fomented any trouble in Ireland. The problem is several centuries old. It is a civil war against the background of religion. The IRA has been fighting against Britain to win independence and freedom for Ireland since 1919. It has dealt very harsh blows to a country which has humiliated the Arabs for centuries. The Irish liberation movement is one of the just causes which we support. Our aid is not vital—surely the Irish would still be active, even if nobody supported the IRA.

[Darcourt] You are often criticized for engaging in actions here there and everywhere which you do not carry through.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Do you know this anecdote. A Chinese peasant armed with a spade made a little pile of earth in the middle of a field. A stranger came past: "What are you doing with that spade?" "I am building a hill." "You are mad." "No, I am starting with this mound of earth, my son will continue after me, and my grandson will one day climb this hill." Some enterprises are more difficult to carry through to the end than others. To arrive at your destination, you have to be patient.

[Darcourt] After several years of open fighting and armed operations, what is your present position with regard to Chad's future?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Our position is quite clear. We have turned a new page. We want peace and stability to reign

in Chad, and for the various factions to stop quarreling. The Chadians—even those who were here—have returned, or are doing so. This new page can be summed up in one sentence: Leaving Chad to the Chadians. It is an internal matter that does not concern us at all. The problem that does remain to be resolved is that of the Aouzou strip. The matter is in the hands of the International Court of Justice at The Hague. We will implement its decisions. I repeat: respect for Chad's sovereignty. In the event of internal conflict, we will not intervene.

[Darcourt] France recommends the establishment of democracy and a multiparty system in Africa. What do you think?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] You are doubtless referring to the La Baule speech. It is an interesting point. My fear is that such a policy would lead to very great confusion. A multiparty system is not a solution at the government level in any country in the world—especially in Africa. The more parties there are, the more problems and crises there will be. There is a danger of causing anarchy and bloody conflicts. Take the example of the Touaregs. These nomadic shepherds of the Sahara and Sahel region constitute a community of over a million people. They have never known any borders in the desert. They are divided between five countries—Algeria, Libya, Niger, Mali, and Burkina. They were massacred in Niger and Mali. They rose up. The repression by the Malian Army was terrible. The Touaregs emerged from it bruised, humiliated, rejected, and abandoned. This is an intolerable situation. Look at this atlas; the borders drawn by the colonialists take no account of these tribes' actual location. The borders inherited by the independent African states simply delineate the areas of influence appropriated by the European colonial powers.

The real Africa is not that of the countries shown on the map, but that of the tribes. You have the example of what is happening in Ethiopia, which is a conglomeration of tribes. Somalia is another example; this country is divided among four tribes, which are destroying each other. It is chaos. The multiparty system is setting Africa back and causing the collapse of states which will give way to tribal groupings. The multiparty system threatens to destroy all societies and to lead democracy astray. Each tribe will form its own party but will not accept the result of elections if it is removed from power. The losers will take up arms, and Africa has no shortage of forests and impregnable refuges. The Western multiparty system is based on parties that rest on class phenomena, and these classes do not exist in Africa. Because the Africans constitute a poor, proletarian class. This is why I appeal to France not to urge the Africans to establish a multiparty system, which would inevitably lead Africa to disaster.

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Egyptian Visit

LD0407181491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Benghazi, 4 July—The brother leader of the revolution arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah this afternoon after visiting the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt and Sudan.

The brother leader of the revolution left Burj al-'Arab airbase this afternoon at the end of a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Muhammad Husni Mubarak was in the forefront of those who saw off the brother leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Egyptian Prime Minister

LD0607205391 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution this evening received Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the general people's committee.

The conclusions arrived at by the joint Arab Libyan-Egyptian preparatory committee, which met during the last two days, were reviewed. The agenda of the second session of the joint higher Arab Libyan-Egyptian committee, which began its meetings this evening in Banghazi, was also reviewed.

Palestine's 'Arafat Arrives in Banghazi 7 July

LD0807084391 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 0115 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, last night [7 July], arrived in Banghazi. He was welcomed at Baninah International Airport by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and the PLO representative in Banghazi.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yugoslav Ambassador

LD0607211191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Great Jamahiriyah. The brother leader asked the Yugoslav ambassador about the situation through which Yugoslavia is currently passing, expressing the Libyans' concern about their Yugoslav friends in regard to the tribulation and dismemberment through which Yugoslavia is currently passing.

The brother leader drew the attention of the Yugoslav ambassador to the fear that these events might be exploited as a pretext for the intervention of foreign powers to realize colonialist objectives. The brother leader of the revolution made clear that what is happening in Yugoslavia was predicted by the Green Book more than 15 years ago; namely, it is the era of the masses and the separation of nationalities. The brother leader made clear that it is impossible to compel any nationality to join another nationality by force, and that the creation of a new Yugoslav federation of independent republics is a demand which can not be confronted with tanks and aircraft.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that the Libyans, as friends of the Yugoslav, are prepared to offer any effort to get their Yugoslav friends peacefully out of their ordeal.

Speculation on 'Probable' U.S. Strike on Iraq

JN0407161591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] In an interview with our Cairo correspondent Mustafa Bakri this morning, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya and Egypt had agreed to send a joint delegation to mediate between the Lebanese Government and the PLO to halt fighting in the south and work out a formula for cooperation between them. We will bring you the full text of the interview with the Libyan leader later in the evening. Now for highlights:

[Beging Bakri recording] When interviewed in Alexandria this morning, al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that the joint delegation plans to confer with the Syrian and Lebanese presidents and PLO representatives. On Egypitan-Sudanese ties, al-Qadhdhafi noted that his efforts had produced agreement on the outlines of a dialogue between Egypt and Sudan with the help of Libya. He found President Mubarak quite willing to see relations with Libya normalized. Al-Qadhdhafi said there was no longer real problems to obstruct convening the emergency Arab summit he called for, indicating that Iraq was willing to attend. He pointed out, however, that there still remained some psychological barriers against the attendance by the Gulf states.

Al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that if Syria should come under an Israeli attack, Israel would be faced with the full force of an Arab retaliation. Such an agression will be a declaration of war on all Arabs, al-Qadhdhafi asserted.

Speculating on the repercussions of a probable U.S. military strike at Iraq after the pullout of the UN observer team, the Libyan leader stressed that Iraq would be far better off and there would be an Arab turnaround to favor Iraq. If the United States did deliver another blow against Iraq, the Arabs would have to strike at Israel's nuclear facilities. Al-Qadhdhafi made a vitriolic attack against Shamir calling him a liar, a fanatic, and backward. He urged the international community to move in earnest to disarm Israel of its weapons of mass destruction. He noted that the Arabs are being disarmed in the interest of the Israelis. [end recording]

Saddam Receives, Addresses Jordanian Delegation

JN0707174191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the secret of the Iraqis' steadfastness and of the aggression against them is that the Arab nation is one nation, and any harm to the remotest part in the Arab Maghreb will harm the remotest part of the Arab east, and that what pleases them will also please everyone.

Receiving the delegation of the Jordanian committee in support of the Iraqi people headed by Amin Shuqayr, his excellency said that every honest patriotic Arab is certainly an honest nationalist Arab because patriotism in a divided nation must result in nationalism.

His excellency the president said that the sons of the nation are equal and that which makes a distinction among them is the belief in their cause and their readiness to sacrifice for it.

His excellency also said that the Jordanian people's position is known to every Iraqi because he heard about it and saw aspects of it. This makes them believe more strongly that their sacrifices have been in the right place.

The president also said that retaliation for the aggression and the aggressiveness should be through reconstruction and that holy war lies in the reconstruction of what the aggression destroyed.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Regional Command's Foreign Relations Bureau. (more)

Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's speech:

Welcome to your country and among your brothers. The secret of the Iraqi's steadfastness and of the aggressiveness mobilized against them is what you have just said; namely, that we are one nation and that what befalls the farthest part of the Arab Maghreb affects the farthest part of the Arab east. Likewise, when any of the two is happy, everybody feels happy. Despite this, we are a nation divided into 21 parts. This is not against the background of patriotism or the general constitutional approach; rather, it could be because of the particular circumstances relating to each case on its own. However, the nation is united; I mean by this that the deeper division lies in intentions and policies. In other words, the difference does not lie in the color, but in the policies that are based on premeditated intentions.

The enemies find in this division and in the disparate, conflicting parts something that serves their illegitimate interests and facilitates their aggressiveness which is, naturally, illegitimate. Thus, when they see anything that causes you to feel happy in any part of the Arab Maghreb, they try to undermine it.

And when you feel sad because of any situation in any part of the nation, they feel happy. This is because they find this a weakness and capitalize on it to lead you astray, away from the path of virtue and genuine Arab stands. Every honest Arab patriot must also be an honest Arab nationalist because patriotic feelings in a divided nation must be tantamount to nationalist feelings, if nationalist feelings are originally not there in one's intentions. Of course, we are here talking about undefiled, sincere, and full- blown patriotism that strongly clings to its principles. This is because the enemies consider sincere patriotism a cornerstone and a secure basis of bright nationalism. Based on this understanding, whenever a sincere, deep patriotism founded on certainty and objective, effective factors emerges, they try to undermine it.

Sincere, deep, honest, faithful, and effective patriotism must bear the burden of division and the honor of the nation's awakening. This will strengthen and invigorate the nation, help it achieve its hopes, and give it its proper place among other nations to reflect the bright stages of its glorious history.

A faithful, honorable patriot who opposes anti-Arabism, wherever he may be, has to be nationalist. When he is nationalist, and at the same time, likes his people just as he likes his nation, he will find himself compelled to recount the bright pages of the nation's history. And if he happens to be among the heroes of the nation, then he will partake in the nation's brightest episodes, not the less significant episodes of its history. (more)

Hence, we believe that nationalism is basic in the Arab countries. By basic we do not mean that there are basic and nonbasic sons in the Arab nation because all the sons of the nation are equal and what places them on different levels is their belief in their cause as well as their readiness to sacrifice for it. We rather mean that there are positions in the nation that always bear a special burden in history and that bring a special honor in awakening and defending the nation.

These pillars that are carrying the bridges of the nation are known in the Arab homeland. The Arabism of those who have been tested over a long period guarantees its own continuation along with its high values, which are derived from the nation's history and from its great spiritual heritage in particular.

This nationalism is deep-rooted in Iraq, and the Iraqi patriots who believe in their nation, who believe that they are part of the nation, and who believe that they have one destiny and joint aspirations and struggle will place the nation in a better position. These nationalists exist, may God be praised, despite aggression about which you have read and heard and which you opposed. During your visit to Baghdad, you will see aspects of the destruction and harm caused to the Iraqis.

May you and Jordan remain safe and sound, God willing, as you yourselves wish. May God be praised, we hear about your determination and we believe that it is

the type that causes every Arab to take more pride in his nation and in his affiliation to this nation. The Arabs are one nation now and will remain so in the future just as they were one nation in the past.

The Jordanian people's attitude is known to all Iraqis; they have heard about it in every detail. When they travel to Jordan, some Iraqis return flabbergasted because of the immense effect Jordan's positive stance has upon them. They pin great hope on the good aspects of the Jordanian position but when they visit Jordan they discover more than they had expected from the Jordanians. This reaffirms their conviction that their sacrifices were not in vain. God bless Jordan and its people. They are welcome in Iraq, among their brothers. You are welcome.

The battle has permitted us to know ourselves and to know our enemies. We have discovered the enemies who also discovered their own evil nature. All the descriptions we gave to the nation's enemies were not enough to describe their vile nature and give a true picture of this vileness.

The enemies hit everything they had planned to hit. They damaged some and destroyed some. Our brothers are determined to repair everything. Some things will be repaired and restored as before, some will reach the previous level, and some will be made better than before.

We have the necessary determination, God willing. The proper answer to aggression and its aims is the faith and determination to rebuild. Jihad, in addition to other well-known considerations, means a crusade to rebuild what the aggression destroyed.

Saddam Speaks to Tunisian Workers on Iraqi Values

JN0607205791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has emphasized that Iraq wants for all nations of the world the same human values it seeks for itself.

Speaking to a delegation of Tunisian workers from the Safaqis region, his excellency said: As you know and have heard and read, the aggressors hid their aggressiveness behind international legitimacy. But before long they were exposed and are now being exposed more than ever. They have emerged as liars and tricksters, and they have also lied to each other.

The president added: The attitude of Tunisian workers came as no surprise to us. We heard about and witnessed tangible examples of the posture of this truly brotherly Arab country—a true inheritor of Arab values and civilization.

His excellency the president went on to say: Before, during, and since the aggression, we pointed out the objectives of the aggression. Even before it took place, true Arabs grasped the underlying motives of the aggression. When it did occur, these motives grew clearer still.

Those Arabs who were not as aware as you will come to fully comprehend through other instances the real goals of the aggression.

His excellency pointed out that, fundamentally, the aggression was targeted against the entire Arab nation rather than against one Arab country in particular.

His excellency the president stressed that the aggressors would not gone have ahead had they not known that Iraq represented the soul of this nation and that its aspirations were those of the Arab nation.

His excellency added: You all recall their contention that once the Iraqi Army was ousted from Kuwait, not a single soldier of theirs would linger on Arab soil. But look what has happened. By their admission, not all the troops massed for aggression will be evacuated. They will maintain a presence not only in territorial waters, in the Gulf, and in the Arabian Sea, but throughout the Arab territory. In other words, colonialism in its old ugly military shape is coming back.

He added: Further than that, they have established a military presence for themselves outside the land of the Arabs, or parts of the land of the Arabs, to include non-Arab territory. They have started to talk about the importance of having a military presence in Turkey. All this happened after the Iraqi Army left Kuwait.

He went on to say: Despite all that we are saying, they are talking about credibility and are accusing others of lying and treachery. Shame on them, they are the liars and treacherous.

His excellency the president added: You also remember what they said when we told them: If you believe in international legitimacy, let us apply international legitimacy to all urgent issues of humanity. Then, it will become clear to us and to everybody how urgent the Palestine question is, so that it might be resolved according to legitimacy. You remember what they used to say. They used to say: After the Iraqi Army leaves Kuwait, we will settle the Palestine question, and the basis of international legitimacy.

His excellency the president noted that talk about Palestine is now taking a different direction, with plotting against the Palestinians taking various forms, and Palestine becoming just history rather than a battle waged by the Arabs, the Arab nation, and the Palestinians.

He said they attacked children's schools, kindergartens, hospitals, and civilian shelters just as they did the trenches of courageous mujahidin on the battle front. They made no distinction between man, woman, or child, nor between the military on the battlefield and civilians in the rear lines. They did not discriminate between infant formula factories and arms production facilities, nor between tanks and civilian vehicles taking water to villages. They hit bedouin tents just as hard as

they did military trenches. They never stopped to ask themselves how many Iraqis they were killing. They aimed for technical results unconcerned by morals. They were guided by the principle of the means justifies the end.

They deployed all kinds of bombs they had been saying were banned internationally. They used them to kill a greater number of Iraqis; indeed they tried them out on the Iraqis.

His excellency the president went on to say that while they talk about peace and the need to eliminate certain types of weaponry from the Middle East, on the ground they single out the Arabs, and indeed the Iraqis. While they point out the importance of peace, they talk about the need for Israel to be turned into a strategic depot for their weapons so that along with Israel they may, at a moment's notice, be able to aggress against any country they like.

While they discuss peace, they supply Israel with up-to-the-minute weapons and go on to conclude deals with it.

His excellency emphasized that those who profess peace ought to match action to rhetoric. Where has credibility gone and where is the credibility of those mouthing it?

One of the things the Arabs have found out in this historic duel between right and wrong is the falsehood of a good many of the slogans advanced in certain Western nations. They have discovered much charlatanism, double standards, and inconsistencies between rhetoric and deeds—in terms of democracy, social justice, peace, security, or people's right to freely pick their own way.

One of the lessons to be learned is that we have been able to sort things out: On the one hand you have the good people who belong to this nation, and who are jealous of [words indistinct], and on the other hand those whose colors, pretentions, goals, and objectives are at variance with the first camp. The lines have now been distinctly drawn. The criteria of patriotism, Arabism, dedication, and the requirements of a correct stand are now so obvious that there is no longer any room for confusion. The criteria of agentry are now clear enough to obviate the need for a dictionary to define them.

His excellency added: Patriotism is now so clear as to obviate the need for a dictionary to define it. The distinction between what is patriotic and its opposite, and between what is patriotic and nationalist and human is now equally clear. The requirements for a loftier human relationship are now clearer than ever.

His excellency added: Without necessarily coming over, people in Tunisia can now clearly judge all the people, the leaders, and regimes and their policies on the front line in the Arab east. They can now tell the patriotic regimes from the unpatriotic ones. They can now compare and judge whether this or that is the right method and line, and tell genuine slogans from bogus ones.

His excellency indicated that previously this was not the case, but things are now quite clear for those who were not in a position to see in the past. When we come closer to facts we tend to be guided by them in the interest of a sound structure and then we are able to defend it should it come under attack. Thus the nation should be able to stand on its feet to occupy its rightful place among the community of nations and be judged by history as befits a glorious nation, as you are all aware. The Arab nation will then play a key role in the service of humanity and peace-making—a true peace founded on justice and fairness.

His excellency the president concluded by saying: Then everybody will be in good shape, God willing—from Morocco and Tunisia through Iraq and all other Arab states. Then all will enjoy stability and feel that their rights are not stolen and their values and entities not threatened.

Only then will Palestine and the Palestinians and other Arabs waging a real struggle be free, God willing.

Paper Says 'Misleading' U.S. Campaign To Fail

JN0507110191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has asserted that playing up the new misleading, aggressive U.S. campaign against Iraq aims at dispossessing it of its military power in favor of the Zionist entity and its expansionist schemes in Arab territory.

The newspaper, the organ of the Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today that war criminal America is creating this campaign to achieve aggressive objectives against Iraq and its people as part of the ongoing conspiracy against them, primarily to create a climate conducive to perpetuating the unjust economic blockade and to wager on the ugly, immoral results this would produce against the Iraqi people, their economy, and daily living.

The paper adds that in creating this crisis, Washington is also wagering on finding excuses and pretexts to justify its colonialist military presence in the region and achieving the scheme of direct hegemony over the region and its peoples to allow it to control its resources in an organized way.

The paper adds: Despite all these malicious objectives—the known and hidden ones—and in spite of its approval of Resolution 687, the only practical option in light of the aggression's outcome, Iraq has seriously cooperated with UN efforts according to its familiar policy to honor its pledges and commitments. It has extended all facilities to its committees through practical measures to overcome administrative and technical obstacles in relation to the inspection of any installation the committees wished to see.

The paper goes on to say that Iraq's continued eagerness to reassert its cooperation in implementing Security Council resolutions, in spite of all the injustice it has faced, aims at defusing tension in the region. It also aims at enabling its people, without any foreign pressure, to resume with a high degree of resolve, the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the aggression and to devote all their efforts to the great mission of reconstruction as set forth by its leadership and announced by President Saddam Husayn recently. The aim behind this is to enable the people to live in greater peace, security, and prosperity than they enjoyed in peacetime.

The paper asserts that President Bush is deliberately ignoring and overlooking Iraq's sincere desire to establish permanent peace so as to perpetuate the conspiracy against Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn. The paper notes that in this new aggressive campaign, Bush is practicing blackmail and political and military terrorism as part of the conspiracy he is supervising under incessant Zionist pressure.

Concluding, the paper says: The new aggressive and misleading campaign and the blackmail being practiced as part of it, will not achieve any objectives for the aggressive alliance—considering that all their objectives had failed in the previous chapters of the conspiracy. The effect would only be to strengthen the Iraqi people's determination to hold their ground, resist, and thwart U.S. wagers to undermine the will of the Iraqis and affect their resolve to reconstruct their country. This is because securing a free, dignified life is an irreversible Iraqi decision.

Saddam To Submit Nuclear Materials List to UN

JN0507202291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today promised the United Nations that Iraq will submit the list of nuclear materials that has been demanded by UN inspection teams, and that he will guarantee the inspectors access to the sites of these materials in the future.

This was stated in a memorandum the Iraqi president sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar after UN teams had been unable to inspect uranium-enriching equipment at Iraqi Army bases.

The Iraqi memorandum arrived while a special commission was advising the Security Council that Iraq's conduct toward the teams tasked with inspecting uranium equipment had not risen to the level required, as the commission put it.

UN Official on Cooperation in Missile Destruction

JN0707112691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1053 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Douglas Englund, head of the UN mission tasked with overseeing the destruction of Iraqi missiles, has said that the level of the Iraqi authorities' cooperation over the past week has been excellent, and that the Iraqis carried out all destruction operations.

In press statements in Baghdad last night, Douglas Englund added that the mission does not have evidence showing that the Iraqis possess missiles other than those they disclosed.

The head of the UN mission announced that the 61 missiles declared by Iraq have been destroyed.

It is anticipated that the UN experts charged with destroying Iraqi missiles will leave Baghdad Sunday.

It is to be recalled that another UN mission, made up of 37 nuclear experts representing 22 countries, has arrived in Baghdad.

18 Officers Said Executed for Jun Coup Attempt

NC0707114891 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Manama, July 7 (AFP)—Eighteen Iraqi Army generals and high-ranking officers were executed last month for plotting to overthrow President Saddam Husayn, United Nations sources said here Sunday. The sources, who took part in recent U.N. missions to Iraq, said the officers were hanged rather than killed by a firing squad, as is the normal practice in the military for high-ranking officers. The identities of those said to have been executed were not disclosed.

The army has mounted three coup attempts since Iraq was ousted from Kuwait by a U.S.-led multinational force in late February, according to the sources, who said the information came from Iraqi interlocutors. The latest bid seems to have taken place shortly after the Muslim religious holiday of Al-Adha, in the last week of June, the sources said. The army's chief-of-staff, General Husayn Rashid al-Tikriti, was sacked last month without any announcement of a new posting, indicating that he had been sanctioned.

In early June, General Abd-al-Wahhab Muhammad Husayn was also summarily dismissed from his post as Iraq's coordinator with the allied forces that were deployed in northern Iraq after an aborted anti-government revolt by the Kurds. Kurdish sources said the general had been arrested on charges of "activities against the regime."

Kurdish Leader Barzani's Visit to Baghdad Noted

NC0507194791 Paris AFP in English 1931 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Dahuk, Iraq, July 5 (AFP)—Mas'ud Barzani, head of the rebel Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), went to Baghdad on Thursday, DPK officials said here Friday.

The daily AL-THAWRAH, organ of the ruling Ba'ath Party, also reported Friday that Mr. Barzani had gone to the Iraqi capital.

Officials of the Kurdistan Front, a coalition of leading Kurdish movements including the DPK, said Mr. Barzani's departure for Baghdad meant an end to the front's meetings which have been preparing for the past 10 days for resumption of talks on Kurdish autonomy and democracy in Iraq with the central government.

Quoted by the press, Mr. Barzani said a senior front delegation was to travel to Baghdad "around July 6" to continue talks on the national unity agreement with Iraqi authorities.

He said the meeting would be the last and could lead to the signature of the accord's final formula on the status of Kurdistan.

The delegation, according to AL-THAWRAH, would include several leaders of the Kurdish opposition movement, including Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Expresses 'Confidence' in Talks

JN0707084091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], has expressed confidence that the current meetings between leadership officials and representatives of the Kurdistan Front will be the last round of national dialogue talks, which will be crowned by a final agreement.

In an interview given to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, Barzani said that the dialogue resolved very important issues in its previous rounds. What remain are simple issues on which we will have consultations, so that we can formulate a final draft for the agreement that will close the doors to all tendencious external attempts, Barzani added.

Barzani affirmed that the representatives of the Kurdistan Front are satisfied with the principled eagerness of the Iraqi leadership to consolidate the country's national unity and end the negative abnormal measures which prevailed over the past 20 years.

Mas'ud Barzani added: I would like to note here that when he received us, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn demonstrated a positive spirit and a willingness to uphold common principles on the need to forget the past and let bygones be bygones in order to proceed toward the future to build up the homeland and work as a single team rather than two teams.

In his assessment of the leadership's role in rendering the national dialogue a success, Barzani went on to say: The positions of his excellency the president and officials were highly instrumental in permeating this dialogue with honesty and trust, and in attaining significant results. He stressed: It would be impossible for us to agree with any alternative regime on the things which we can agree on with the current Iraqi leadership.

The DPK secretary general condemned the attempts of some international parties and foreign media to tarnish the image of the national relationship that exists among Iraqis, and to misrepresent the position of Kurdistan Front members on dialogue with the leadership, affirming that more than 90 percent of the Kurdistan region's masses and their representatives support the agreement. He said there is a distortion of the entire process and dialogue, adding: The objectives of this are clear to us.

Barzani accused some news media, including the press, of dishonesty in their positions and statements, adding: Most often, there is a misrepresentation of the statements which we make. As for my statements, they have been misrepresented several times.

Barzani asserted that the only proper and correct solution for Iraq's problems lies in a peaceful solution and the thwarting of designs of external parties to perpetuate abnormal conditions. He added: The decision to opt for dialogue did not come haphazardly or as a result of a transient incident or condition, but rather as a result of an in-depth study and strong convictions that fighting, even if it were to continue for scores of years to come, would have to end through a dialogue to resolve issues through political means.

The DPK secretary general added: Arab-Kurdish fraternity will remain on top of all and the most dear to us. This fraternity will be the sacred basis on which we will build our future.

Barzani spoke of the issues settled in past talks with leadership officials. He said: With regard to democracy, we have reached a very positive result; in addition, a new draft law on autonomy has been agreed on and will be legislated soon.

He described the new law as a guarantee to entrenching and developing the experiment of the past 20 years.

The Kurdish leader said that dialogue on normalizing relations between the sons of the one people ended in positive and vital results and principles sufficient to restore normalcy among the sons of Iraq.

On the borders of the autonomous region, he said: We found the correct path to a common and final view that will be defined within the next few days. Responding to wagering by some sides on this issue as an element that will touch off an explosion of the differences between the parties to the dialogue, the DPK secretary general said: When we talk about the autonomy region, we do not talk about borders separating two entities. The Republic of Iraq is one, and its borders are internationally recognized. We are concerned with its safety and protection.

Mas'ud Barzani continued to explain the viewpoint of the front leadership and the Iraqi Kurds on the borders of the autonomous region. He said: What is meant by the borders is the limits of the autonomy powers in the region that is an inseparable part of Iraq. Absolutely no

one demands that it be separated from Iraq. He dismissed rumors that the in its talks the Kurdish movement has focused on national demands and interests that are exclusive to the Kurdish parties. He said: This is incorrect, because we believe that the security of Iraq in its entirety will certainly reflect on the security of the autonomous region.

Mas'ud Barzani concluded by talking about the return of the Kurdish families who were forced—due to extraordinary circumstances—to evacuate their cities and villages. He said: Their return will be finalized [words indistinct] days where a joint effort will be held in cooperation with the government bodies and probably the United Nations and the Red Cross to expedite the transfer of these families from outside the borders.

'Tension' in Holy Cities; Kho'i House Arrest

NC0607060991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Our correspondent in holy al-Najaf has reported that the situation in our country is chaotic, particularly in the holy cities of al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Kazimiyah, and Samarra' where tension and apprehension prevail. He adds that His Eminence Shaykh Kho'i and his son Mohammad Taqi remain under house arrest in al-Kufah. Security men surround the house and only Shaykh Kho'i's eldest daughter, who supplies the two's daily needs, is allowed to enter.

Our correspondent also says that other members of Kho'i's family, including his son Ibrahim and his son-in-law Mahmud al-Maylani, along with Jawad Bahr al-'Ulum, hundreds of other members of his religious circle and his aides, and 90-year-old Ayatollah Murtada Khalkhali are still imprisoned in Baghdad. He notes that the security men harass Kho'i by the random way in which they release, try, or execute the detainees.

Talks With Kurdish Leaders Resume in Irbil

JN0607164691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Irbil, 6 Jul (INA)—A session of talks was held in Irbil today with the representatives of the Kurdistan Front. The session was chaired by Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. The session was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil. The session was also attended by Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani and the members of the front's command. INA has learned that it was agreed to pursue the sessions of the dialogue during the next few days.

Conditions Stated for Allowing Import Licenses

JN0607175291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to charge the trade minister, or whoever is authorized to grant Iraqis import licenses, without the transfer of foreign exchange in accordance with the state's import policy, except for banned items. Following is the text of the decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

RCC decision No. 108 dated 17 Dhi al-Hijjah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 29 June 1991.

Decision: In accordance with the provisions of clause A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. Clauses one and two of RCC decision No. 52 dated 14 January 1988 shall be replaced by the following:

First: The trade ministe,r or whoever he authorizes, shall be charged with granting Iraqis import licenses without the transfer of foreign exchange. The licenses shall be issued by the general establishment for exhibitions and trade services, in accordance with the state's import policy, except for banned items, to be defined in coordination between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization. The Ministry of Trade shall announce this through the media.

Second: Imports without the transfer of foreign exchange shall be authorized from any origin or international source except boycotted countries and companies.

2. This decision shall go into effect as of its publication in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

It has been learned that clauses one and two of RCC decision No. 52 dated 14 January 1988 granted Iraqis the right to import goods without the transfer of foreign exchange in accordance with import licenses issued by the general company for import and export.

'Terrorists' Kill IDF Soldier, Escape to Syria

TA0307152791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] An Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldier, Staff Sergeant Ehud Ben-Mordekhay, was killed before dawn by terrorist fire at an IDF post on the eastern slopes of Mount Hermon. Ben-Mordekhay, who was 26, married, and the father of a child, was serving in the army reserves, the IDF spokesman announced.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that early this morning several light antitank weapons rockets and light arms were fired at an IDF post in the Mount Hermon area near the Syrian border. Staff Sergeant Ben-Mordekhay was killed in the fire. The IDF soldiers returned fire at the terrorists, but they managed to escape quickly to the Syrian border. There is no certainty that Syria was involved in the incident.

Our correspondent adds that there have recently been a large number of terrorist attacks on the security zone or in the direction of the northern border. The chief of staff and the commander of the northern command conducted an initial debriefing of the incident.

Infiltrators Enter Syria

TA0407075891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 91 p A 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A debriefing on the incident [in which an Israeli soldier was killed on Mount Hermon on 3 July] was held last night at the office of Northern Command Commander Yitzhaq Mordekhay. It appears that the three terrorists moved from Lebanon to Syria using smugglers' routes. At the same time, it was noted that it was impossible for the terrorist squad to move through Syrian territory without being noticed by Syrian soldiers. According to senior officers, Syria will have to provide answers concerning its responsibility for the incident. [passage omitted]

A very senior defense source said last night that "Israel will not sit idly by in view of this new policy of the Hizballah Organization, which is attempting to reach the Israeli border and carry out terrorist attacks there. There is no doubt that Israel will retaliate to remove this new threat." According to him, it seems that terrorists are currently trying to reach the border area and are not settling for terrorist attacks in south Lebanon. The proof of that, he said, is several recent incidents, some of which involved Hizballah men, and last week's incident in which terrorists attempted to enter Israel from the sea.

According to the senior defense source, "It would seem that at least one Hizballah squad, which had been operating in the region in the past several days, has passed through the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, where the Lebanese Army is currently deployed. This indicates that deployment in itself is no solution, unless it is accompanied by a removal of the threats." [passage omitted]

Lebanon Withdrawal Viable if 'Terrorism' Ends

TA0707060491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Syria believes it has a commitment from the Bush administration to press Israel to withdraw from the security zone once the Lebanese Army completes its deployment in the south by the end of the summer, reliable sources have indicated.

Senior Israeli security officials say they would rebuff such pressure now, but they are holding out the possibility that Israel would indeed withdraw if Damascus can prove over time that the Syrian-backed Lebanese Army has been successful in ending all cross- border terrorist attacks on Israel.

Foreign Ministry officials say the U.S. has yet to approach Israel about evacuating the security zone, but realize this is a possibility now that the PLO has agreed to surrender its heavy weaponry to the Lebanese Army, which routed the PLO in the Sidon area after four days of clashes.

The PLO yesterday took Lebanese Army soldiers to several sites around Sidon and handed over their medium and heavy-weight weapons. The army loaded the weapons onto trucks and said they would be stored until the PLO decides where it wants them to go. The Lebanese Army hopes to complete the disarmament today.

Meanwhile, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi is said to have asked the U.S. to negotiate the entry of the Lebanese Army into the Jazzin enclave. Jazzin, a strategic Christian town just north of the security zone held by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), could be a site of confrontation should al-Hirawi's troops seek to unilaterally deploy its forces.

However, a senior Israeli security official voiced confidence that the Lebanese Army would not seek to take Jazzin by force, as this could also mean a clash with Israel. He said, "I think they would like to work out a deal" over Jazzin, but he refused to divulge whether Israel wants any accommodation there.

The U.S. is also believed to have sought to reassure the Syrians on Israeli withdrawal by reminding them that the U.S. has supported UN Security Council Resolution 425, adopted in 1978 calling for all Israeli forces to exit Lebanon. A U.S. spokesman was not available for comment.

When asked under what conditions Israel would withdraw from the security zone in light of the Lebanese Army victory in Sidon, one senior security official spoke bluntly: "The South (of Lebanon) has to be clean from

attacks. We are far from that now. I am not talking about expelling the PLO population from the south, but terrorism must completely stop. There can be no cells penetrating Israel, no booby-trap bombs, or anything like that. The PLO has shown that it can attack Israel without heavy weaponry."

The senior official put the onus on Damascus. "It is all up to the Syrians, as they will have the say in determining how strong the Lebanese Army will be in halting attacks against Israel. I think if it was up to al-Hirawi, the attacks would stop, as I think he wants to rebuild that country. But, it is not up to him, really. I don't know what Syria will do and whether its interested in halting attacks on Israel."

Yosi Olmert, head of the Government Press Office and an expert on Lebanon, reiterated the view of the senior security official that southern Lebanon must stop being a staging ground for attacks, and added before Israel withdraws, we would expect to enter into negotiations with the Lebanese government over security arrangements."

In Olmert's opinion, Syria may go along and use its sway in southern Lebanon to halt attacks of the PLO and Hizballah for short- term tactical reasons. Specifically, it wants an international drive to compel Israel to withdraw from the security zone.

"The Syrians want to do all they can to increase pressure on Israel to leave," he said. Olmert wondered if Syria would be willing to engage in a confrontation with Iran if its client, the Hizballah, resisted such a halt on attacks. Officials point out that there was recently a Hizballah attack launched from the area occupied by the Lebanese army.

Regarding Jazzin, not only is no looming military clash between the Lebanese Army and the SLA expected, but in the event of Israel's terms being met for quitting southern Lebanon, there is now speculation that SLA leader Gen. Antoine Lahd would seek to rejoin the new-look Lebanese Army if the SLA would disband. In the past, Lebanese leaders have termed the SLA treasonous due to its collaboration with Israel.

Kibbutz Council Recognizes Palestinian Rights

TA0707111691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 91 p 3

[Report by Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpt] The United Kibbutz Movement [UKM] Council, which convened for a political discussion at Kefar Haruv over the weekend, reached a decision recognizing the Palestinian people's national rights. The decision calls for a peace settlement in stages to be based on both Israel's security needs and recognition of Palestinian rights, including their national aspirations.

As far as is known, this is the first time that a political body belonging to the Israeli political mainstream has issued such a declaration.

The UKM Council adopted another measure according to which the Jordan Rift Valley, the northern part of the Dead Sea, and the Golan Heights would remain under Israeli sovereignty even after peace negotiations with Israel's neighbors and would constitute Israel's security borders.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 July in a page 3 report by Nahman Gilbo'a adds that "in additional decisions on the Palestinian issue, the Council called on the State of Israel to propose the implementation of self-rule in the territories as an interim arrangement prior to the permanent solution and to hold talks with a Palestinian or Palestinian-Jordanian representation that would be either chosen in free elections or made up of agreed upon nominees."]

Arens Dismisses Report on Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA0707110691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has dismissed reports that Israel will consider withdrawal from south Lebanon if Syria imposes its control on the terrorists. Arens was speaking at this morning's cabinet meeting. From the Prime Minister's Office, Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] The matter was raised by Minister Yuval Ne'eman, the minister of science and energy. He was citing reports, which have appeared in the Israeli press, quoting senior defense officials to the effect that if the Americans, at the request of the Lebanese Government, approached Israel to withdraw from south Lebanon, then Israel would say: Well, if the Syrians impose control on the terrorists, we will consider it. Yuval Ne'eman said it would be quite wrong of Israel to abandon General Lahd and the South Lebanese Army. In fact, it would be a betrayal. What Israel ought to be doing is demanding of the Americans to insist that the Syrians withdraw from the enormous area of Lebanon which they control.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that he agrees with Yuval Ne'eman's view of this and will issue a categorical denial. This was at this morning's cabinet meeting.

[A related report by political correspondent Arye Golan on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 7 July adds: "Coming out of the cabinet meeting, ministers pointed out that Israel would have no interest in remaining in south Lebanon if it received a guarantee that the Lebanese Government will unconditionally prevent terrorists from acting against Israel." The report includes a recorded interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Golan, held after the cabinet meeting, in which Qatzav says: "If the well-being and security of the population in the Galilee is ensured, the

State of Israel will definitely have no interest in Lebanon." He adds: "Israel has several vital needs; if these are safeguarded, our policy will naturally change. However, right now, neither the Lebanese authorities nor the terrorists seem about to deviate from their evil designs on the State of Israel."

Also at the cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister David Levi reported on the ongoing foreign affairs; for example, his contacts with the EC. The representative of the United Nations, Edouard Brunner, will be meeting the foreign minister this afternoon. This is the man who replaced Gunnar Jarring as the Middle East peace envoy. Basically, Israel will be telling Edouard Brunner that Israel does not agree to the presence of an active UN role in the peace process.

Later in the week, the foreign minister will be meeting two other guests, namely, the Belgian foreign minister and the EC envoy. Here, the foreign minister will be criticizing those officials of the EEC who are reportedly trying to sabotage the economic agreements reached in principle during his last visit to Brussels and Paris.]

Foreign Minister on 'Alien Forces' in Lebanon

TA0707115591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan after the 7 July cabinet meeting, outside the Prime Minister's Office—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Golan] How does Israel view the most recent developments in south Lebanon? Is there any willingness here to withdraw from that area if the safety of our population in the north is guaranteed?

[Levi] As you have aptly pointed out, if the safety of our population is guaranteed. And who can guarantee the security other than the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]? There are alien forces in Lebanon who have assisted attacks and designs to attack our population on more than one occasion. We will certainly not put our trust in them. Our population's security is the supreme task of the government, and we intend to carry it out. If, some day, all the alien forces leave Lebanon and a sovereign Lebanese Government wishes to discuss future peace arrangements and ways to safeguard our population's security in the framework of a peace agreement, it will find Israel willing. But as long as alien forces, which are definitely not sympathetic toward Israel, remain in Lebanon, Israel is obliged to do everything possible to protect its citizens and towns.

[Golan] Minister Levi, is there any new information about a Syrian reply to President Bush? What is happening with the political process?

[Levi] The Americans have chosen to wait for the Syrian reply. However, that wait will not last forever. There is a time limit after which the Americans will have to decide. The Syrians cannot be allowed to veto the peace process or intimidate other parties into halting the peace process. If they are interested in the peace process, they should join it, abandoning all conditions and foot- dragging. If they do not want in, we should make progress with the other parties. [passage omitted]

Shamir Comments on Situation in Lebanon

TA0707165291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reiterated that Israel is prepared to enter direct negotiations with any Arab country, even with the Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Shamir said that pressure ought to be brought to bear on Syria to release the Jews living on its soil. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Tough political struggles lie in store for us, including with friends who do not sufficiently understand the profound and unbreakable bond between the Israeli people and Eretz Yisra'el, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today while addressing a B'nai B'rith convention on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus. He stated that Israel is prepared to enter direct negotiations with any Arab country, even with the Arabs of the territories.

[Shamir] We have declared time and again that we are prepared to enter direct, bilateral, and face-to-face negotiations with any Arab country, even with our Arab neighbors living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The negotiations must be conducted without any preconditions, and without the encumbrance of all sorts of elements.

[Segal] Referring to recent developments in Lebanon, the prime minister said it was too soon to talk about any border changes and moves on the part of Israel. He asserted that Israel has its own red lines. The prime minister referred to the terrorist attack on Mount Hermon that resulted in the death of Staff Sergeant Ehud Ben-Mordekhay and the murder of Avi Osher in the Jordan Valley, saying both men had paid with their lives the price of their and our wish to live in this country. Terror will not enfeeble us, the prime minister stated.

Mr. Shamir once again raised the plight of Syria's Jews, who are not allowed to emigrate to Israel. He said that pressure should be increased on Syria to let go of the 4,000 Jews living there.

[Shamir] Syria today wants to get closer to the West, to the United States and Europe. How is it possible that the United States, Europe, and all the Western countries do not demand that it fulfill the fundamental precept of a civilized country to open its gates to all its citizens? [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 7 July adds that in reply to a question Shamir said: "The establishment of settlements does not constitute provocation of President Bush, and we will continue to build

the country." Replying to another question as to whether Israel will withdraw from the security zone in Lebanon, Mr. Shamir stated: "For the time being, Israel is busy safeguarding the security of its citizens and, as long as terror operations continue there, Israel will remain in the area."]

Egyptian Government Invites Levi To Visit in Jul

TA0807082491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian Government has decided to invite Foreign Minister David Levi to Cairo, and the visit will take place by the end of this month, political sources in Jerusalem reported last night.

The invitation was issued in the wake of contacts held over the last few months and following Egypt's decision—encouraged by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni—to attempt to get closer to Likud officials. [passage omitted]

Sharon Plans To Settle One Million in Jerusalem

TA0807052191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jul 91 p 12

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpt] Ma'ale Adumim—The government plans to settle more than one million Jews in the greater Jerusalem area, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon told a cheering crowd in this town just east of the capital last night. "Within a number of years you will see on all the nearby mountains and hills homes and lights, and children playing. Then we will be able to arrive at peace," Sharon said. "Israel has no plans to leave Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, nor will it ever have such plans," Sharon told the crowd of several thousand gathered to celebrate 15 years since the founding of Ma'ale Adumim.

A massive building effort is already under way here, with the town's population of 15,000 expected to be doubled within three years. Local leaders said the Interior Ministry had assured them that by next month Ma'ale Adumim will become the first town in the territories granted the status of city.

They also praised the recent decision to extend Ma'ale Adumim's jurisdiction to include the 12,000 dunam area between the town and Jerusalem, and said plans were being finalized for virtually linking Ma'ale Adumim with the capital.

"We will become the next neighborhood after French Hill," said deputy mayor Ben Greenberger.

"If Jerusalem can't expand to Ma'ale Adumim, then Ma'ale Adumim will expand to Jerusalem," he added echoing what has become a motto at City Hall.

Sharon has spearheaded the town's developments plans, pushing hard to build up the area he has frequently stated was essential to the security of the state.

Last night he said that Ma'ale Adumim, as well as settlements in the Gush 'Etzyon bloc, were an integral part of the government's plans for the expansion and development of greater Jerusalem.

"During our days, we will see one million Jews in greater Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," Sharon said. Just over 350,000 Jews presently live in Jerusalem alone, according to Sharon. [passage omitted]

PRC Prime Minister Visits, Meets King Husayn

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0607123991 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Amman this morning where he will meet his majesty the king, his counterpart Tahir al-Masri, and other top Jordanian officials. Our reporter 'Ali Hamati was at the airport and files in the following report.

[Begin recording] Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with his majesty the king, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, and 'Abdallah Nusur, the foreign minister.

Upon his arrival at Amman airport, Mr. Peng and the accompanying delegation were met by the prime minister, the foreign minister, and top Jordanian officials. In a written statement by Mr. Li Peng released upon his arrival, the guest said his meetings in Jordan will include exchanging views on bilateral relations between the two countries and major international issues. In the statement, the Chinese prime minister also said: It is indeed a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to visit this friendly country at the invitation of the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to convey to the friendly people of Jordan the cordial greetings and best wishes of the Chinese people. He added: Though China and Jordan are far apart geographically, the common interests and goals are closely linked up together. We are both developing countries having the same oriental cultural background and similar traditions, and facing the common task of maintaining peace and promoting development. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the friendship and cooperation between China and Jordan have been developing continuously on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Mr. Peng continued: I have come to this country for the purpose of enhancing our mutal understanding, strengthening Sino-Jordanian friendship, and learning from the friendly Jordanian people. He said: I am looking forward to my meetings with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, as well as other Jordanian leaders so as to exchange views on our bilateral relations and major international issues. It is my firm belief, he added, that the amicable relations and cooperation between China and Jordan is not only in the interest of our two peoples, but also conducive to peace and stability in this region and the world as a whole. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Discusses Relations

JN0607160691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and PRC Prime Minister Li Peng conferred at Raghadan Palace this afternoon. The Chinese prime minister commended the state of bilateral relations and expressed the wish they will increase. He noted that national sovereignty and territorial integrity are the foundations of the new world order and that China advocates equality in international relations without regard to power and resources. He urged redoubled efforts to sort out the contradictions and troubles created by the Gulf war. The prime minister said that China will attend the Paris Arms Control Conference, stressing the need for a balanced arms reduction so as not to let certain nations acquire limitless amounts and lethal types of weapons, while others are denied this privilege. The two sides agreed on the need to take a stand against expansionism and to support the Palestinian people. They also agreed that a Middle East settlement must be based on a trade of territory for peace, and urged that Israel be dissuaded from clinging to the status quo.

Attending the meeting for Jordan were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the ministers of foreign affairs, industry and trade, and supply, as well as the Jordanian ambassador in Beijing. Attending for China were the delegation accompanying the PRC prime minister and the Chinese ambassador in Amman.

His majesty the king this afternoon hosted a luncheon for the Chinese prime minister, attended also by the Chinese and Jordanian delegations.

Received by King Husayn

JN0607181191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn today received PRC Prime Minister Li Peng, who arrived in Amman today. [passage omitted] Following his meeting with the PRC prime minister, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to reporters.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Your Majesty the King: After your meeting with the PRC prime minister, how do you view the chances for a peaceful settlement, and what can the PRC contribute, given that it is a permanent member of the UN Security Council?

[Husayn] The PRC is a friendly state with whom we have a longstanding friendship. The first time I visited the PRC was at the head of an Arab summit delegation to discuss the Palestine question. I then paid an official visit to the PRC. The first president of the PRC to leave his country for any other part of the world also visited us here in Jordan. The PRC foreign minister came here during the recent regrettable events in this part of the world. Our relations are solid and strong. I believe that

the PRC as a Security Council member, can play a great role and this role has to be devoted to upholding and defending principles and values, and to the fact that all issues should be addressed with the same standards so that there will be a promising future for humanity, God willing. Our discussions were frank, clear, and comprehensive, and the outcome was positive. Our views on most issues were fully identical.

[Reporter] One last question, please. What do you think is the next step to advance the peace process on the Arab and international levels?

[Husayn] We are observing what others are doing. I do not believe that we are asked to do anything at this point. We are waiting to see what will happen.

[Reporter] Thank you, My Lord. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Masri Says Visit 'Successful'

JN0707175391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Remarks by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to Jordan Television correspondent Kassab Samawi at Amman airport following the departure of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng on 7 July—recorded]

[Text] [Samawi] Your excellency, how do you assess the outcome of the Chinese premier's visit in terms of bilateral ties and political action?

[Al-Masri] The visit was very successful. China is a friendly country that supports Arab issues. It is an influential member of the world community and a permanent member of the Security Council. China's positions, indeed, are more advanced than those of all the Security Council's member states; hence the importance of this visit. We discussed bilateral issues, and there are broad prospects for cooperation—commercial and other. Trade between the two countries is ever increasing. The trade balance favors Jordan. We agreed about certain points, such as establishing joint ventures in Jordan.

Concerning the political aspect of the visit, we discussed all main points. I do not like to go into details about this because China's stance, whether on the Palestine question, the settlements, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, or the other issues of the region, is positive and well known. I can say that the Jordanian and Chinese views in this regard are identical.

[Samawi] In light of the talks, have you sensed that the Chinese are ready to embark on an effective move on the international scene to set the peace process in motion?

[Al-Masri] I believe that the visit in itself is an active move. He will visit some Arab and non-Arab countries in the region. China maintains an active presence at the United Nations, and it will call for what it believes in. I, therefore, believe that China is always making effective moves, not only through this visit, but on a continuous basis.

PRC Foreign Minister on Country's Role in Region

JN0707171891 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Amman, 7 Jul (PETRA)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has expressed his great appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's positive role and efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question, and to establish peace and stability for the people of the region.

In an interview with PETRA, Qian Qichen emphasized Jordan's important and decisive role in bringing about a just and honorable solution to the problems of the region, given its close ties with the Palestinian people.

Evaluating the visit and the outcome of his talks with Jordanian officials, the PRC foreign minister said although the visit was brief, it was fruitful. He added that a joint press statement would be issued at the conclusion of the talks.

He explained that during the visit, officials from the two countries held a detailed, comprehensive exchange of views on the Middle East problem, and that views were identical or greatly similar.

On bilateral relations, he noted that the two countries expressed full satisfaction with the growing relations in all spheres, and that the two sides agreed on the best means to bolster these relations.

He added: We in the PRC attach great significance to Jordan's important role in resolving the Middle East problem. He expressed great appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's positive role to resolve the problem and to advance the peace process in the region, stressing the ideas his majesty set forth in this regard.

Asked about the PRC's assessment of the situation in the region and the efforts under way to establish peace, Qian Qichen said: I think it is time the Middle East problem was resolved, especially since there is an opportunity to bring about a solution. This does not mean that the views of various parties in the region are identical, but these parties have acknowledged the need to resolve the problem, especially since many wars have taken place in the region over the years. He pointed out that failure to bring about a solution to the problem would threaten peace and security not only in the Middle East but also worldwide.

He added that the PRC Government's position is based on support for all efforts by all parties to achieve peace. He stressed that the best and final path to achieve this aim lies in convening a UN-supervised international peace conference, with the presence of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The PRC foreign minister added that the Palestine question is the core of the Middle East problem. He stressed the Palestinian people's right to recover their legitimate national rights and the need, at the same time, to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by applying Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

Asked if the international community should put pressure on Israel since it is the party obstructing peace efforts in the region, and queried about the PRC position toward Israeli policies in the occupied Arab territories, the foreign minister said that efforts by the international community should focus on urging or forcing Israel to adopt a flexible, constructive stance toward the peace process. As for settlements in the occupied territories, he said: We believe that such actions are not useful, and create more obstacles to the peace process.

Decree Issued To Repeal Martial Law Provisions

JN0707162891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1502 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has addressed the following message to the prime minister:

Our dear prime minister, may God protect him: To complete the structure of democracy, which we chose as a general policy and a way of life; to bolster the climate of freedom, which we wanted as a model for the homeland and the nation; to establish the foundations of a stage at which all people will be equal before the law in a state of institutions; to assert our deep commitment to defend the rights and dignity of man as he performs his national duty and engages in creativity and giving; to respond to the government's commitment to the abolishment of martial law provisions once and for all; and until the draft laws prepared to fill the legislative vacuum that may emerge as a result of the abolition of these provisions are completed, we issue our decree approving the instructions of the martial law administration No. 1 of 1991, issued in accordance with paragraph two of Article 125 of the Constitution.

[Signed] Your brother Husayn. Amman, 7 July 1991.

The Council of Ministers had earlier forwarded to His Majesty King Husayn its decision of 5 July 1991 for royal approval. The decision includes the instructions of martial law administration No. 1 of 1991, which revokes the instructions of the martial law administration issued in accordance with paragraph two of Article 125 of the Constitution.

The new instructions revoking the martial law administration's instructions, effective with their publication in the official gazzette, state the following:

First, taking into consideration the provisions of the third item of these instructions, all instructions of the martial law administration issued under the second paragraph of Article 125 of the Constitution and the amendments made to it will be cancelled. The third item of the instructions states that despite the abovementioned instructions and in order to meet the public interest, the current provisions shall remain in force until they are repealed or replaced.

A. First, decisions of the Economic Security Committee made under Article 5 of the instructions of the martial law administation on financial and economic affairs No. 2 of 1967 which are still in force shall continue to be invoked.

Second, the Council of Ministers may repeal any decision of those indicated in the first item of this paragraph.

Third, all other laws or legislation notwithstanding, the decisions referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of this paragraph may not be appealed to any court or any other body.

B. First, the present martial courts will continue to consider or try pending cases under the powers provided for in amended Article 8 of the martial law administration's instructions for 1967. The prime minister may refer any of these cases to the competent regular courts.

Second, with the exception of capital punishment, the prime minister shall be empowered to endorse the sentences of martial courts or commute them to the terms he sees fit.

Third, all other laws or legislation notwithstanding, and under the second article of this paragraph, once endorsed or commuted, sentences shall be definitive and implementable immediately. They are not subject to appeal with any court or any other body.

Afghanistan

'Fierce Fighting' Kills Over 100 in Laghman

BK0807030691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce fighting has been going on between mujahedin and Kabul regime troops in Laghman Province over the last two days. According to a report, more than 100 persons have been killed in the fighting. Fighting has also been reported in Paktia Province.

Kabul Units Carry Out Combat Operations

LD0607203791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Units and subunits of Kabul Garrison General Command carried out combat and mopping-up operations around Vardak province today. The Bakhtar military section reports that in the course of these operations 12 artillery shells, 13 rocket launcher shells and two boxes of light machine gun ammunition were seized.

During the operations several heavy weapons, strong trenches and hideouts of the extremists were also destroyed.

Iran-Based Party Confers on UN Peace Plan

LD0607084791 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—A six-man delegation of the Iran-based Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan ended an official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry and returned to Tehran Friday.

In an interview at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport spokesman of the group Rahmatollah Mortazavi said during the stay in Islamabad of the delegation they had conferred with the Pakistani president and a number of other high-ranking officials on a U.N. peace plan for Afghanistan.

He said the group had also conferred with leaders of the Pakistan-based mujahidin of Afghanistan on their proposed peace formula. He added "The two sides had offered close outlooks on the issue."

The spokesman added that the delegation had also conferred with the U.N. representative in connection with the situation in Afghanistan and that the U.N. official had been informed of the viewpoints of the Islamic Unity Party in that respect.

Mortazavi said Pakistan would shortly host a quadrilateral assembly on Afghanistan by representatives from Iran, Pakistan, the Afghan mujahidin in Iran and the mujahidin in Pakistan.

In a related report from Islamabad the Swiss deputy foreign minister Thursday informed a group of leaders of the Afghan mujahidin of Switzerland's initiative for a peace plan for Afghanistan.

President of the interim government of the mujahidin Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said he is ready to talk with all Afghan leaders except for the head of the Kabul regime and other members of the communist party.

The Swiss official called on the leaders of the mujahidin to end civil war in Afghanistan and cooperate with the Swiss Government for returning peace to Afghanistan.

In an interview in Islamabad Thursday the Swiss deputy foreign minister said he does not intend to mediate in relation with the situation in Afghanistan but rather solve the issue of Afghanistan solely by talks between the opposing sides in the civil war in that country.

Bangladesh

Soviet Envoy Offers Help for Economic Development

BK0507134091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered to give all possible assistance for the economic development of Bangladesh. This was stated by the new Soviet envoy to Bangaladesh (Yuriy Konstanliyev Okinin). During his meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka Thursday [4 July] night, he welcomed Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union and said we are looking forward to the visit as it is taking place after a long time and at this level.

Commentary Views Growing Cooperation With China

BK0707132691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The approval of a joint study report on the flood control and river training project on the Brahmaputra marks yet another positive development in Sino-Bangladesh bilateral cooperation. The report has been adopted in the just-concluded three-day high-level meeting between Bangladesh and China in Dhaka. Prepared by a joint team of China and Bangladeshi experts with technical and financial assistance from Beijing, the study report was submitted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

The study report reflects well the friendship and understanding between Bangladesh and China and their joint efforts in a cooperative spirit for greater welfare of their two peoples. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia appreciated the financial and technical support extended by China for carrying out the study. She also thanked the experts of the two countries for putting in very hard and

dedicated work to complete the study. As a disaster-prone country, Bangladesh attaches great importance to flood control projects. Floods (?are) the most recurring phenomena in the country, causing extreme hardship to the people and putting severe strains on efforts for sustainable development. Valuable assets are lost, damages to infrastructure, crops, and other properties are quite extensive because of the floods. This calls for integrating effectively viable flood control projects with overall disaster management operations. It is in this context that Prime Minister Begum Zia has reiterated to give her government's priority to flood control measures.

With this priority in view, the Sino-Bangladesh joint study report on the flood control and river training project on the Brahmaputra will certainly provide a solid framework for actions in areas covered under the related study. The prime minister has thus said that the government would give serious consideration to the recommendations of the report for their implementation. One would like to note here that China has developed technology and expertise in flood control over the years. Being herself prone to floods, they completed a good number of viable flood control projects. The Chinese technology and expertise in this field are of great relevance to our situation in Bangladesh. Continued technical cooperation in the field of flood control and water management between Bangladesh and China on a long-term basis will therefore be considered as very welcome. This will go a long way in strengthening and improving our own capability to address ourselves to the (?indicated) problems of flooding in a lower riparian country like Bangladesh.

There are, of course, strong institutional arrangements for channeling Sino-Bangladesh efforts for strengthening bilateral cooperation in all possible areas. A ministerial-level joint commission between the two countries provides effective institutional mechanism for harnessing the full potentials of bilateral cooperation and collaboration in various fields.

There is tremendous goodwill at the highest national levels in both countries to reinforce cooperative links. The recent visit by Prime Minister Begum Zia to China provided another opportunity for the two countries to reiterate their strong commitments to strengthen efforts for bilateral cooperation. The visit was very fruitful and successful, bringing the two countries closer to one another. China and Bangladesh share views on major issues of global and regional concern. Shared perception and common interest have been the basis for a stable framework for Sino-Bangladeshi friendship and cooperation. Bilateral relations between the two countries have been strengthened over the years because of this stable framework. With efforts continuing for further diversifying the areas of Sino-Bangladeshi cooperation and collaboration, common interests will be served more effectively for wider common benefits of the two peoples.

India

Alleged LTTE Members Arrested in Gandhi Murder

Sri Lankan Tamils Arrested

BK0607041891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] arrested two Sri Lankan Tamils suspected to be LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activists from a hotel in New Delhi yesterday in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. One of them is a 70-year-old man and another a teenaged girl. CBI sources said some incriminating documents have also been recovered from them. They were produced before a magistrate and remanded to police custody for further interrogation. The special investigation team probing the assassination has already arrested six persons but Sivarasan, who allegedly masterminded the plot, and Subha, another man accused, are still at large.

Team Reveals Escape Plan Suspects

BK0607164091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 6 (AFP)—Investigators combing India for the two prime suspects in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination have unearthed a plot to smuggle them out of the country to Nepal, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Saturday.

The agency quoted official sources as saying an elderly man and a teenage girl arrested Friday in New Delhi had revealed the escape plot to the Special Identification [as received] Team (SIT) charged with investigating the May 21 assassination.

It said the two told the SIT they were involved in a plan for Sivarasan and his female accomplice, Subha, on the run for the 45-days since the murder with a price on their heads, to be smuggled to Nepal and on to a third country.

The pair arrested in a Delhi hotel had allegedly already established contact with a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the prime suspects in the murder, in th Nepalese capital of Kathmandu, PTI said.

The agency added that ultimately the plan was to send the two suspects, both of them Sri Lankan Tamils, "out to Singapore or some other Southeast Asian country where the LTTE has sympathisers."

Earlier Saturday the SIT in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state where the assassination took place, issued a public notice saying they suspected the two suspects were masters of disguise and could be roaming India changing their appearance from day to day.

The SIT distributed 20 different sets of pictures showing artists' versions of how the pair would appear in various guises.

The versions of how Sivarasan, the alleged one-eyed mastermind and Subha, his accomplice could appear to the public, showed the man as clean shaven, mustachioed, wearing Hindu symbols on his face, and a thick and a thin beard.

The woman, who like Sivarasan has been identified as a Sri Lankan Tamil, was depicted with varying hairstyles as well as with a shaven head, and with and without spectacles.

The release of the identical pictures and the public notification of previously announced cash awards came a day after the arrest of the 70-year-old man and a teenaged girl in connection with the case in New Delhi.

The arrest of the two, S.S. Sabhapathy and A. Dhirai, 17, both suspected LTTE members, marked the first in the case outside Tamil Nadu state where Mr. Gandhi was blown up by a woman suicide bomber while on the campaign trail.

PTI quoted SIT sources as saying that some of those already arrested had told the SIT that Sivarasan had bought different clothes, stage makeup and false beards before the assasination.

The agency said that in various public sightings believed to have been positive, Sivarasan had been wearing alternately city and peasant clothes, white cotton trousers and a lungi, or long cloth wrap.

Murder Suspect Flown To Delhi

BK0807102891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (AFP)—A man detained in Nepal on suspicion of trying to smuggle two key members of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination team abroad has been flown from Kathmandu to New Delhi, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Monday.

The agency said the suspect, believed to be a Sri Lankan Tamil, was flown here late Sunday night by Indian officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team investigating the May 21 assassination.

Sunday officials in Kathmandu had denied all knowledge of any arrest in connection with the Gandhi case, and PTI quoted Indian Embassy officials there as saying the issue was "very sensitive."

The arrest and deportation, if confirmed, would mark the first arrest of a member of the assassination plot team outside Indian territory.

PTI said the man, who was arrested Saturday, had been living in a rented house in Kathmandu's Baneswore district under the name of K. Thyagarajan, but had been picked up from a hotel by a senior Nepalese police officer.

He was handed over to the Indian Embassy Saturday, the agency said.

Sources in the Special Investigation (SIT) Team probing the murder had said earlier that two key suspects still at large were trying to escape a massive India-wide police dragnet through Kathmandu.

The SIT sources said the Nepalese connection was cracked with the arrest of an elderly Tamil and a young girl in a Delhi hotel Friday.

The pair reportedly told the SIT that they were part of a chain of contacts arranging for Sivarasan, believed to be the mastermind of the murder, and his female accomplice to travel to Kathmandu and on to a third country.

Sivarasan has been identified by the SIT as an intelligence chief of the Sri Lankan Tamil Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main suspect in the killing of Mr. Gandhi by a woman suicide bomber who died in the May 21 blast.

In Kathmandu, Nepal's Home Ministry confirmed Monday a Sri Lankan man had been arrested here and deported Sunday night to India through an unidentified Indian diplomat and Indian security personnel.

"A Sri Lankan who called himself as R. Swaminathan was arrested last Friday for moving in the Kathmandu township without a passport," said ministry spokesman Ramanada Vaidya, who denied Sunday the arrest of any Sri Lankan or Tamil from India.

Sources close to the Indian Embassy, which has not officially confirmed the arrest and deportation, said the man had LTTE links.

The ministry spokesman did not reveal what the Sri Lankan said in his statement to the police.

He said the statement did not show whether the man entered Nepal by air or land.

An immigration department source said officials were "making a hectic search of the suspects living in Nepal without valid passports."

Traffic police hav been checking vehicles here during the past few days.

All Sri Lankans in Tamil To Register With Police

BK0607042891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu Government has clarified that all Sri Lankans, including those who have become citizens of Sri Lanka only recently, should also register themselves in the nearest police stations on or before the 12th of this month. A press release issued in Madras said the clarifications have become necessary because certain doubts have been raised as to whether Sri Lankan citizens with Sri Lankan passports living in India as nonresident Indians need also to register themselves.

Swedish Nationals Released at Police Station

BK0607081591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the two abducted Swedish nationals have been released. They were handed over at a police station at Anantnag District this morning. An official spokesman told our correspondent that the two Swedish are being brought to Srinagar by the Anantnag District Magistrate.

Reportage on Transit Stay Facilities in Pakistan

Pakistan Denies Withdrawal

BK0807050291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan has denied that it has withdrawn transit stay facilities for Indian nationals. A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad that only those passengers who do not carry valid visas will not be allowed to leave the airport. He said this applies equally to all foreigners and Indian passengers are not being discriminated against. However, transit visas continue to be issued to bonafide Indian passengers for a stay of up to 72 hours, the spokesman added. It may be recalled that India had warned Pakistan last Saturday that New Delhi was forced to review its policy about travel between the two countries, if Islamabad did not reverse its decision not to allow Indian transit passengers out of the airport in Pakistan. The Pakistani charge d'affaires in New Delhi was summoned to the foreign office and conveyed India's displeasure over the Pakistani action. The matter was also taken up by the Indian high commission in Islamabad with the Pakistani authorities.

Spokesman Criticizes Pakistan Refusal

BK0607162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] India has termed as retrograde Islamabad's decision not to allow Indian transit passengers out of the airports in Pakistan. It has also warned that New Delhi will be forced to review its policy about travel between the two countries, if Islamabad does not reverse its decision. The Pakistani charge d'affaires in New Delhi, Mr. Shifaqat Kakakhel, was summoned to the foreign office today and was conveyed India's displeasure over the Pakistani action. The matter has also been taken up by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad with the Pakistani authorities.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newspersons in New Delhi that the Pakistani action amounts to clear violation of the bilateral visa agreement and the decisions taken at the July 1989 meeting of the Indo-Pakistan joint council. He said the Pakistan action is specially retrograde as it comes in the wake of ongoing discussions on the step for a full implementation of the visa agreement. The spokesman said the Pakistani action has been accompanied by extraordinary allegations that airport transit facilities are being greatly misused by the visiting Indian nationals in Pakistan. He described it as totally false and aiming to cover up Pakistan's own involvement in terrorism and subversion in India. These are also aimed at diverting public attention at a time when Pakistan is increasingly being viewed as a state sponsor of terrorism. The spokesman said Pakistan appears to be becoming a victim of its own policy of assisting and encouraging terrorism across the border. If there is a breakdown in law and order in that country, it must be attributed wholly to the self-serving policies of Islamabad and in particular to the brutal suppression of human rights and democratic aspirations of its own people. The spokesman said the government of Pakistan will be well advised to put its own house in order instead of resorting to habitual India baiting.

Referring to the allegation in the Pak media that there are a large number of illegal Indian immigrants in that country, the spokesman said in the face of highly restrictive visa regime, there is mere fabrication and must be dismissed [sentence as heard].

Government Asks LTTE To Renounce Violence

BK0707125891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government says the LTTE [liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] must make a declaration that violence would not be used as a means to achieve political objective before any future negotiations. Reacting to the reported feelers from the LTTE leadership for resumption of talks without preconditions, Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, adviser to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, said in Colombo today that there is no change in the government's stand on the issue. The doors are always open to negotiations.

It may be recalled that in an interview with a news agency in London, the LTTE leader, Kittu, is reported to have once again offered to hold unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

As already reported 19 civilians and 10 LTTE militants were killed in separate incidents in northeast Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours.

Rao Comments on Programs, Issues at Conference

BK0807041891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister says a comprehensive economic program is on the anvil. It will ensure that no particular section of society is burdened and all make sacrifices according to their capacity. Mr. Narasimha Rao was addressing a news conference at the end of his day-long visit to Hyderabad last night. He made it clear that the government will continue its antipoverty programs while carrying out economic reforms. The prime minister made an impassioned plea for people's cooperation in the implementation of the economic programs.

Mr. Narasimha Rao refuted the charge that the recently announced economic measures were at the behest of the IMF. He added that any delay in implementing these measures till his government won a vote of confidence in Parliament would have adverse consequences.

On the situation in Punjab and Kashmir, the prime minister said the government is considering new measures to solve the problems. He said Islamabad's assistance to terrorists in these two states and its atomic weapons program are the main irritants in the relations between the two neighbors. Mr. Rao made it clear that India will take a more active part in the Nonaligned Movement as it is more relevant today though the priorities have changed.

On the Ayodhya [disputed shrine] issue, Mr. Narasimha Rao reaffirmed his party's stand in favor of the construction of the temple without dismantling the mosque. The prime minister also said that his government is in the process of widening the terms of reference of the Justice Verma Commission inquiring into the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. On the Kaveri water dispute, Mr. Narasimha Rao said he will discuss the matter with the governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Six 'Militants' Killed, Six Arrested in Punjab

BK0707033091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, six militants have been killed and another six arrested since yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, a hardcore militant, Jaspal Singh alias Jassa, and his two accomplices were killed in an encounter with the security personnel in Mehnar area of Faridkot district last night. Three more militants were killed in separate encounters in Faridkot, Jullundur and Amritsar districts. The militants shot dead two girls in (Sultanwind) area of Amritsar district last night.

Five Arrested in Jodhpur

BK0807081691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] Five militants have been arrested in Jodhpur while they were trying to sneak into Pakistan through the Rajasthan border. According to police four others who were helping the militants were also taken into custody near Bhilwara. Police also recovered a van, time devices of a bomb, pistols and live cartridges from the militants.

Iran

'Hard-Line' Majles Deputies Detained, Questioned

TA0807082191 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] It has been reported from Tehran that more than 25 majles deputies, as well as some committee heads and Guard Corps commanders, all affiliated with the hard-line faction, were detained last week for 24 hours and were released after undergoing interrogation. Such detentions, which have been going on in recent weeks, are designed to outmaneuver the hard-line faction and reduce its attacks on Rafsanjani's government.

Air Force Commander Leaves for Soviet Union

LD0707101191 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 7 July, IRNA—Commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic Army, Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, left here for Moscow Sunday morning on a one-week visit heading a high-ranking military delegation.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of commander of the Soviet Air Force General Colonel Yevginiy Shaposhnikov.

Sattari is to discuss bilateral cooperation in aviation and aerospace with his Soviet counterpart and other officials of the country.

President 'Determined' To Complete Power Plant

LD0707081391 Tehran IRNA in English 0617 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 7 July, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday emphasized on completion of the Bushehr power plant, in southern Iran. The president made the remark in reply to a letter of vice-president and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Reza Amrollahi who had sought the opinion of President Rafsanjani and the government's definite policy concerning the completion of the project. "We are determined to complete this major project and will do so with the help of God," said the president.

In his letter, Amrollahi referring to reflection of the news on Germany's refusal to finish the semi-completed project raised during last weeks visit to Tehran of a German delegation, said the news may weaken the morale of the experts of the organization who for many years have been looking forward to resumption of the work on the project. The german contractor of the project, Siemens, suspended work in Bushehr after the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war and was to resume work after the cessation of the hostilities. Eight years ago Iran announced its readiness for resumption of work on the project which, however, was not fulfilled by the German contractors.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Iraqi Refugees

NC0707130791 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 7 Jul 91

[By Jean-Michel Cadiot]

[Text] Tehran, 7 July (AFP)—Iran is encouraging Iraqi refugees to return home but is keeping its western border

open in case of renewed troubles, Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri said Sunday.

Mr. Nuri said "a little less than 500,000" of the 1.1 million Iraqi Kurds and Shiites who had taken refuge in Iran after an anti-government revolt that was crushed in March were left behind in the country.

Around 600,000 so far had opted to return to Iraq, he told Agence France-Presse, but warned that the situation of Shiite refugees was far more complicated than for the Kurds.

"Measures have been taken to encourage their return. In the north, there are no serious problems," he said, referring to the Kurds. "We are advising them to return home, but this is by no means an obligation."

Mr. Nuri said refugee camp officials had been asked to list the names of those wanting to return to Iraq and to help prepare for their departure from Iran.

"We are giving people the means of transport, by bus up to the border, so they can leave with their belongings. On the other side of the border, they also have the necessary means of transport to take them home."

The minister stressed that Iran was not forcing Iraqis to leave. "They decide to leave when they believe their town is safe, based on the information that they have, and on the comings and goings that they know of."

The decision to leave was not necessarily final, he said.

"Iran has not closed its border and the refugees know very well that they can always come back. This is a guarantee for them, and besides there are some who come back every day."

Mr. Nuri renewed his country's criticism of the international community's response to the plight of Iraqi refugees in Iran.

"Of course, international organisations and some countries contributed to the aid. They could not stay indifferent, as this would have shown a lack of the feeling and humanitarian consideration that they say they have."

"But this international aid, despite its high profile, is still inadequate and not on the right scale."

Mr. Nuri said conditions for the 60,000 mostly Shiite Iraqi refugees in southwestern Iran were "very different" from that of the Kurds in the northwest of the country.

"The situation is not at all stabilized. The future is uncertain, notably because of what is happening in the southern Iraqi marshes, where very large populations are concentrated and facing danger," he said.

"That worries us a lot, and every day refugees are arriving. If the clashes (between the army and Shiite rebels) intensify in southern Iraq, we will face a new influx of refugees."

Mr. Nuri said the Shiite refugees could not be put up in tents because of soaring temperatures. "We want to give them solid buildings and to settle some of them in cooler mountain regions, notably in Lorestan," he said.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, meanwhile, quoted an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as saying UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] was ready to provide shelter for at least 100,000 people.

Iran has called on the organisation to help provide accommodations for refugees who choose to stay in Iran over the next winter, Nicholas Morris told the agency.

Paper Criticizes Government's Economic Policies

NC0507132791 Tehran BAYAN in Persian
22 May-21 Jun 91 pp 10, 11

[Unattributed commentary: "The Government and the Need for Reform"]

[Excerpts] The president's remarks in response to the criticism over the government's direction in domestic and foreign policy are worth studying from various angles. There are two main reasons he reacted so strongly:

1. The emphasis placed on unsuccessful government policies and programs.
2. The ever mounting wave of criticism, which has now reached the point where it extends to even the president's friends.

The present government came to power after important reforms had been made in the Constitution, especially with regard to the executive branch, and promised to increase production, promote public welfare, repair the damage caused by war, etc. To fulfill its promises, it modified existing programs, appointed technocrats to the cabinet, and made fundamental changes in foreign policy. It also carried out extensive propaganda to create the impression that it would be able to reorganize the country's economy and increase domestic production of basic goods, ensuring an ample and cheap supply that would eliminate the pressures on the people caused by the war.

To achieve this, it was considered necessary to rely on foreign assistance and loans and to disavow most of the policies of the revolution. Some officials even termed this the price that had to be paid for economic prosperity.

The technocrats and those who favored domestic and foreign capitalist activity then set to work, making pompous promises about providing the necessary tools for implementing the government's programs and policies. Every possible means to implement the new policies have been tried in the past two years. [passage omitted]

Inflation and spiraling prices in the past two years, one of the main results of the government's policy, as well as

the the appalling rise in the cost of housing, the lack of success in promoting nonoil exports even within the framework of the plan, and the consequent increased dependence on income from oil sales, and the inability to absorb the inordinate amount of capital accrued by wealthy domestic traders and to direct it toward industrial production and the manufacture of consumer goods are among the main features of the economic perfomance of the government of the technocrats. [passage omitted]

All efforts to court the West, even at the expense of trampling on the values of the revolution, will not bring any benefits to the country and will, moreover, result in utter destruction and plunge the country headlong into the dangerous vortex of social and cultural excesses. The imam (peace be upon him) once said: "They recognize no limits but the violation of all our moral and divine values and identity."

Regional wars and turmoil have proved that the Western investors have no inclination to invest in this region and will never, we firmly believe(!), have faith in the system and the revolution which is governed by Islam! Claims that all moves are confined to promoting economic interests and have nothing to do with colonialism are merely an act of deception and a ploy to bring us to utter ruin! The ignorant technocrats' insistance on maintaining their hold on the country's economy and pursuing their defeated policy to absorb foreign capital can have no possible justification.

These technocrats have not been able to absorb even domestic capital. Why should capitalists who have amassed millions of dollars and rials through business dealings, or more accurately through pillage and plunder, be encouraged to invest in industrial production because of a few empty words of praise?! What rich person is prepared to forego a readily available quick profit for the sake of industrializing(!!) the country? What rich person is prepared to invest in vital fields? What industry? What production?

The defeat of this policy is so clear today that the economic policymakers have extended a hand to those wealthy persons who fled to foreign countries and who have no desire to return in view of the culture now prevailing in the country and the system's lack of political stability (in their opinion). In fact, even if the cabarets, the casinos, and all the other dens of inequity that existed in the past were made available to them, they would still not have any confidence in the present situation. [passage omitted]

It is hoped that the officials concerned will accept this solicitous criticism by the admirers of the revolution and make a principled assessment of their erroneous and dangerous policies which have resulted in such contemptible measures and that they will try to rectify their behavior.

The situation is similar in the sphere of foreign policy. No individual or group in the country denies that Iran must have some level of diplomatic relations with other countries (except those to which the imam was implacably opposed). The real issue is one of the positions taken and the frequency of exchanges. Our ties with other countries should be conducted in such a way that they are seen by Muslims and the oppressed of the world as evidence of the strength of Islam and the revolution. Officials should not merely content themselves with justifying the forging of relations with treacherous Egypt, which signed a treaty with Israel, just so that we can retrieve the assets that have been there since the shah's time! The same officials argue that the United States can solve many problems, and so opening the chapter of direct talks with the Archsatan will solve our domestic and foreign problems!

It is in pursuit of this policy that U.S. planes are given permission to land at Tehran airport (in order to open this chapter!). Since the open-door policy has been followed, however, our domestic (economic) and foreign problems have been exacerbated. In today's world of Machiavellian politics, all kinds of contacts from a position of weakness bring nothing but increased trampling of our rights.

One must not forget that one of the principles of the foreign policy of the revolution and the system is the complete severance of ties with the United States. "The enmity of the Archsatan against Islam and the Islamic Revolution is boundless." An uncompromising struggle against the United States and its aggressive and expansionist policies is a duty entrusted to us by the imam until the complete victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

The distortion of this fundamental principle of the revolution and the system neither benefits the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran nor conforms with the principles of the revolution.

Obviously, the positive and negative aspects of a particular policy have nothing to do with its formulators' devotion to Islam. Therefore, any criticism or rejection of most of the government's policies is not tantamount to criticism of individuals or opposition to all actions of the government. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Perpetrators of 'False Propaganda'

LD0707035891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1655 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Excerpts] False propaganda against the Islamic Repubic of Iran is a trick that has always been played by the enemies of the revolution against the officials and the Islamic system of Iran. Over the past 13 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Iranian nation has been witness to the prejudices and poisonous propaganda of the enemies of the revolution aimed at breaking the dignity and formidable status of the system and the unique unity of the ummah. Along this path, efforts to create discord among officials and among the people have been of a special nature. There is no doubt that one

of the important achievements of the Islamic revolution was the oneness that is created between government and people. Discussions which can be heard throughout the world about the separate interests of the state and the people have found no place in our country because of the populist nature of the government and officials of the Islamic Republic's system. And this is an important point which the enemies have understood well and have turned into the object of their poisonous deeds and propaganda. And in the midst of this too, some individuals and agents, domestically, add fuel to the flames lit by the enemy with their words and pens endeavoring to make people pessimistic about the officials and the system.

The leader of the Islamic Republic referred to this sensitive point in his latest remarks. He graciously said: Today our nation, just like all periods that follow revolutions, has preserved its unity and solidarity and is standing behind the officials of the system and is serving the objectives of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Raising issues that are false, creating adverse climates, and making irrelevant accusations combine to throw a veil of suspicion and doubt over healthy and clean exchanges of opinion and constructive criticism. Certain hands are at work trying to prevent issues from being raised through a free exchange of opinion, which would help the task of finding ways of further promoting the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted] This trend will definitely not be tolerated by the revolutionary ummah of Iran. [passage omitted] It is hoped that those who intentionally or unintentionally have taken a step along this path and are wagging their tongues and moving their pens in this direction will come to their senses and not further pollute the atmosphere of the free and heathy review and discussion of issues.

Paper on U.S. 'Hegemonic' Plans for Middle East

NC0707142891 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jun 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Reza Sokhansanj: "The Need To Renounce the Idol of the Current Century"]

[Excerpts] One of the important points in the message by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, to the pilgrims to the House of God is the need to renounce the idol of the current century—the United States. According to him, this idol is more dangerous than all the deities of the past eras of Jahiliyah [pre-Islamic period of paganism] and arrogance, and it has cast its shadow on the lives of Muslims in Islamic countries, while usurping all the cultural, economic, and political spheres of the Muslims.

At present, in the wake of the upheavals in the Eastern Bloc and the dismemberment of the socialist, apostate systems, the United States considers itself the undisputed leader of the world because the Soviet Union is faced with massive domestic and economic problems stemming from the prevalence of Marxist and atheistic thinking in that country.

The Soviet Union is no longer a rival of the United States, and the United States is contemplating the creation of a unipolar world, of which it can assume absolute leadership.

One of the most conspicuous manifestations of U.S. hegemonic aspirations in the aftermath of the cold war era is its unprecedented deployment of forces in the Persian Gulf following Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

By mobilizing its allies, the United States was able to take a major step toward attaining its inauspicious dream of domination over the abundant economic resources of this region on the pretext of eliminating aggression under the guise of legitimacy. In this manner, it assumed the role of the real decision-maker on the region's future. [passage omitted]

The United States currently has drawn up numerous scenarios for its domination of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. Following the end of the Persian Gulf war, the United States embarked on extensive moves to force the regional governments to compromise with the despotic Israeli regime and is demanding ransom from the regional Arab governments which consider themselves indebted to this great deity for liberating Kuwait.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia are displaying an immense softening of their stance on the so-called Middle East peace. As before, the Israeli regime is calling for direct individual talks with Arab countries from a position of strength, without any mention of a UN role.

In its desire to see its grand vision of a homeland stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates realized, Israel continues to transfer Jews to the occupied territories from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia with U.S. support and assistance. These measures are taken according to the carrot-and-stick policy to consolidate and stabilize the illicit progeny of the United States in the region. [passage omitted]

Another issue is the long-term U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region, which contradicts its earlier declarations. At present, the United States has stationed its troops in northern Iraq, southern Turkey, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and in all the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf and is transforming them into rapid deployment forces. If the leaders of the Persian Gulf countries were to awaken from their slumber, they would perceive the danger to their political future.

One of the objectives of the White House for the future governments in such countries is to increase the strength of the U.S.-returned technocrats. The question is what danger threatens this multilateral U.S. domination? The Iranian Muslims succeeded in toppling the U.S.-nurtured idol, but perhaps the international analysts

have not been able to study the fact that Islam is the sole force of combating the United States and Western values.

At present, with the cresting of the Islamic movements in Algeria, Morocco, Tunis, and Egypt, and the Arab countries of the region, the return of the era of Islam's greatness and honor is nigh.

Islam is a comprehensive and complete system with its unique international perspectives, and following the decline of communism, Islam, with its lofty values alone, can fill the vacuum created.

Finally, Islam today is battling all the manifestations of polytheism and idolatry led by the United States, and the need for a return by the Muslims to their glorious history and the magnificence and greatness of the Koran and independence has become amplified even more. [passage omitted]

PRC Premier Arrives on 'Official Visit'

LD0707165591 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 7 July, IRNA—Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived here this afternoon for a two-day official visit. He was greeted at the airport by First Vice-President Hasan Habibi. Iran is the third leg of the Chinese premier's tour of the Middle East which will also take him to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria. He has already visited Egypt and Jordan.

Li told reporters at the Mehrabad airport here that his visit aimed at "friendship, peace, and cooperation." He also called for further consolidation of ties between Tehran and Beijing.

Iran and China have been enjoying good relations over the past 12 years since the culmination of the 1979 Islamic revolution and the fall of the monarchy in Iran.

China is a permanent member of the Security Council and Premier Li is expected to discuss the most vital regional and international issues as well as topics of bilateral relations with top Iranian officials during his stay here.

He will attend a banquet later tonight given in his honor by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Rafsanjani visited China (when he was Majles speaker) six years ago. Also Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, visited China (when he was president) two years ago. The two visits, followed by others from top Chinese officials to Tehran, opened a new stage in the relations between the two countries.

Confers With Rafsanjani

LD0707183791 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 7 July, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here tonight that by accepting the U.N. Resolution 598 (on Iran-Iraq war) and by adopting a neutral position in the Persian Gulf conflict Iran had demonstrated her commitment to peace in the region.

The president, who was talking at a dinner banquet in honor of the visiting Chinese Premier Li Peng, added that the key to solving the problems in the Persian Gulf and the only avenue for establishing peace and security in the region lies in the execution of all paragraphs of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the evacuation of all foreign troops in the region.

The Chinese premier arrived here today for a two-day official visit. He is currently on a tour of the Middle East which has taken him to Egypt and Jordan. He is also to visit Kuwait, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The president told Li that Iran is concerned about the interests of all oppressed nations and is also deeply concerned about the status of Muslims in Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Kashmir, and other parts of the world.

"We demand the pull-out of Israel from all occupied lands," said President Rafsanjani, "and advocate the establishment of an independent Palestine with the Palestinians enjoying the right for self-determination."

"We also advocate," continued Rafsanjani, "the establishment of an independent, non-aligned, and Muslim government in Afghanistan capable of giving shape to the will of the majority of the country's Muslim people in that country."

"In relation with Kashmir the Islamic Republic of Iran declares her objection to all forms of oppressive acts as well as killing and use of force, and demands the restoration of the denied rights of the Muslims of that land as well as recognition of their rights for self-determination within the dictates of the United Nations."

President Rafsanjani said "The similar as well as identical positions of Iran and the People's Republic of China in connection with various international and regional issues is evidence of the existence of common grounds for strengthening and solidifying mutual cooperation on the international scene.

"We maintain that the cooperation of our two countries on international issues and towards the solving of the diverse international and regional problems and disputes has been fruitful and that such common efforts by us contribute to peace and stability in Asia and the world for that matter."

Premier Li in response said the international situation is undergoing deep and critical changes, and that hegemonism and the policy of bullying are among the causes

of the international tension. "This is the biggest threat against the peace and security of the world," he said.

"Different nations of the world generally want a modern, fair and logical political and economic system to be established in the world," Li said.

In the light of this modern system, all countries would have the right to adopt independent social, political and economic systems, and methods of development consistent with their internal situation, he added.

Li said his country is willing to have joint cooperation with the international community including Iran for the establishment of a modern international political and economic order.

"We will persistently tread the path of Chinese style socialism, and underline reforms, open door policy, independent and self-relying foreign policy as well as peace-seeking."

Concluding his speech Li called for constant expansion of friendly relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries, and wished for the prosperity and power of the Iranian Government and people.

Nepal & Bhutan

Civil Servants Strike To Demand Higher Wages

BK0707123591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 7 (AFP)—Leaders of a Nepalese civil servants' union staged a sit-down protest Sunday to demand wage increases and benefit improvements. The 12 central committee members of the Nepal Civil Servants' Organization wore black arm bands and sat on the steps of the Ministry of General Administration for nine hours, union vice chairman Mohan Bahadur K.C. Said. The ministry had warned of tough action against any civil servants joining the protest.

The unions' demands included wages increases, transport allowances, health services, housing benefits, education facilities and a stop to government harassment of union activists, Mr. K.C. Said. "It is only a faction of the civil servants that has undergo the protest to pressure their demands but many of the civil servants are not participating in the present agitation," said a ministry official who did not want to be identified.

The leftist members of the union, protesting since July 1, made their first public demonstration on Sunday and if their demands are not met by July 17 they plan to stage a "pen down strike," the official said.

Meanwhile, opposition members in the House of Representatives urged the government to solve the problems of civil servants. The cabinet met for more than four hours to discuss the civil servants' demands but came to no conclusion, a central secretariat source said. Another union, the pro-democratic Nepal Civil Servants Association, has asked the leftists to cooperate with the government and wait for their demands to be met.

Pakistan

Two Killed During Firing at Kashmir Border

BK0207162991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The army authorities in Rawalpindi today said the Indian troops resorted to unprovoked firing on civilian truckers along Neelum Valley Road in Shahkot sector in which two innocent civilians were killed and 12 others injured. The authorities said it was the third unprovoked incident of firing on the civilian targets by the Indian troops in the last few days. Earlier, they had fired artillery rounds in Neelum area. The Army authorities regretted the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians by the Indians and cautioned that such incidents could only serve to escalate tension in the area. A protest note has been lodged with the UN observers.

U.S. Presence in Mideast 'Nemesis' of Muslims

BK0407030891 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Jul 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The American Plot Thickens]

[Text] Quoting Pentagon sources, our Special Correspondent in Washington discloses that 30,000 American troops are to be stationed in Saudi Arabia along with 25 Stealth bombers and other sophisticated war equipment. This package deal between Saudi Arabia and the United States is part of the Gulf "security system" and is expected to remain effective indefinitely. This should not come as a surprise to anybody. For our part, we have always been crying ourselves hoarse that the Americans were not likely to pull out of the Middle East in a hurry and that is exactly what the plot reveals as it thickens nauseatingly. We have mentioned before that after the jolt given to them by the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia's oil embargo against the West in 1974, the Yanks were looking for an excuse—any excuse—to establish and *maintain* a foothold in the Middle East and that is exactly what Saddam's perfidy against a smaller and weaker neighbour provided them with.

Now, the Americans are sitting pretty. They have killed two birds with one stone. Their more than considerable military presence in the Middle East ensures that nobody again pulls off something a la Faisal against them oil wise and secondly, they will see to it that their protege, Israel, is eventually installed as the policeman of the Middle East and this they will do sooner than later. To make assurance of attaining their objective doubly sure, they do have their military presence in the area. As a very first step, we feel that with the aid of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, they will convene a grand Middle East conference where the Saudis will most readily recognise Israel. Moreover,

it is no secret that the Zionists are in India training that country's pilots in the art of pinpoint bombing with an eye on destroying our nuclear facility at Kahuta. The entire U.S. plan is aimed against the Muslim countries.

Of the Muslim countries, the present administration in Saudi Arabia is proving to be the most imprudent. If it had not provided a foothold to the Americans, clouds of apprehension and uncertainty would not have been so darkly blanketing Middle Eastern skies today. History proves beyond doubt that U.S. military presence has never done any people any good. However, it is no use lamenting what the Saudis have done. It is too late for that now. The Muslims of the world have to unite if they are to escape a nemesis which will make them a shocking example for the rest of the world. Remember, eternal vigilance is the price of freedom.

Premier of Pakistani-Controlled Kashmir Arrested

BK0507163191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1617 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, July 5 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities arrested Friday the premier of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Mumtaz Rathore, after he refused to recognize his party's electoral rout and booted two top officials out of the territory.

Mr. Rathore, local leader of former federal prime minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was seized by the army and spirited away by helicopter to Islamabad, two of his aides said here.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) confirmed that Mr. Rathore had been arrested and that his government had been sacked, in accordance with the constitution of Azad (free) Kashmir.

The arrest came after Mr. Rathore again rejected as null and void the June 29 legislative elections won by the Azad Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC), which is backed by the central government in Islamabad.

Addressing a large crowd of supporters Thursday night, Mr. Rathore also called for a complete strike Saturday, when repolling is ordered in Rawalakot District, 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of here.

Refusing to provide security for the repolling, Mr. Rathore told the chief secretary and the chief of police, whom he accused of collaborating with the central government, to "vacate Muzaffarabad within 24 hours or get ready to be handed to (prime minister) Nawaz Sharif wrapped in a white coffin."

After a meeting friday with Mr. Rathore, the two, chief secretary Rahat Ullah Garal and Police Chief Qamar Alam, said they were leaving the territory, official sources reported here.

Chaudry Latif Akbar and Chaudry Abdul Majid, two of Mr. Rathore's aides, told a press conference that he was arrested after being lured away from the premier's office, which was surrounded by a thousand armed PPP supporters.

An army brigadier asked Mr. Rathore to come with him to a meeting with the "army chief of staff and senior officials" of the Islamabad Government at an officers' mess about five kilometers (three miles) away.

Mr. Rathore's government was sacked under Article 56 of the 1974 Azad Kashmir Constitution, which allows Islamabad to remove from power any Muzaffarabad authority that theatens the interests of the central government.

But the PPP disputed the move, saying the article can only be invoked if local authorities "interfere" with the business of federal authorities.

Sardar Abdul Qayyum, the leader of the AJKMC, which came out with a two-thirds majority in the disputed elections, was due in Islamabad for consultations, according to APP.

Mr. Rathore's arrest came after Ms. Bhutto, the PPP leader who was removed from power nearly one year ago on charges of corruption and abuse of power, left on a visit to London.

In Islamabad, no information on Mr. Rathore's whereabouts was available.

Troops Patrol Kashmir

BK0607010891 Hong Kong AFP in English 2004 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, July 5 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities arrested Friday the premier of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Mumtaz Rathore, and tightened security after he refused to recognize his party's electoral rout and booted two top officials out of the territory. [passage omitted]

Late Friday paramilitary troops patrolled the main towns of at least five districts in Azad Kashmir, and the frontier constabulary, controlled by the federal authorities, was deployed in Muzaffarabad, witnesses said.

APP announced that Sardar Mohammad Ashraf, acting chief justice Azad Kashmir's Supreme Court, would become acting prime minister. He was expected to take the oath of office late Friday at Kashmir house in Islamabad.

Hundreds of Mr. Rathore's supporters, braving heavy rain, condemned his arrest with a rally in Muzaffarabad.

Speakers (?said) his arrest is like the day in July 1977 when then Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, leader of the PPP and father of Ms. Bhutto, was overthrown in Rawalpindi by General Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

In Islamabad, a government spokesman, speaking anonymously, accused Mr. Rathore of actions which might have hurt the independence movement on the Indian-controlled side of Kashmir.

"During the past week, Mr. Rathore had taken such steps which may have negative effect on the liberation movement in the Indian- occupied Kashmir and strengthen the hands of enemy," the spokesman said.

There was "no example of such a ridiculous incident (in) the political history of the current century," he said. [passage omitted]

According to PPP sources, Mr. Rathore was first taken to Islamabad upon his arrest, then moved to Mangla, in Azad Kashmir, where he was being held in a resthouse. Mangla is located between Mirpur and Jhelum, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) south of Muzaffarabad.

Four Arrested for Planning Murder of Premier

BK0707155291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] North-West Frontier Province police have arrested four saboteurs in Peshawar involved in more than 18 incidents of bomb explosions. A police spokesman told Radio Pakistan's Peshawar correspondent that they had detonated these bombs in the Defense Colony, Kalibari, and the Adalat areas of Peshawar and [word indistinct] of Lahore. The four have been involved in heinous crimes for over two years and collected huge sums as a fee for the bombs they exploded. He said the first task of the saboteurs these days was to assassinate the prime minister of Afghan Interim Government using a remote-controlled bomb. They were to receive 5 million rupees for this task. Police have recovered 15 kg of highly explosive materials, including detonators and remote control systems, from the saboteurs. The spokesman added that the saboteurs had been linked to the Afghan agency, Khad, for carrying out terrorist activities in various parts of Pakistan. The documents found in their possession prove their deep links with the terrorist groups. Police have also recovered some other arms from their positions.

10 Army Engineers Killed, 14 Injured in Blast

BK0707162291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 7 (AFP)—Ten Pakistan Army engineers were killed and 14 injured Sunday in a premature detonation of a demolition charge in the Nowshera area near Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said.

The garrison town of Nowshera, 120 kilometers (72 miles) west of here, was the scene of a mysterious ammunition depot blast, in which at least 12 people were killed on May 31. The latest one occurred when a charge was being prepared to dispose of unexploded bombs, rockets and shells left over from the previous explosions at the dump, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement to the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP).

Thousands of people had fled the town after the May 31 incident which ripped through one of several ammunition depots with a total capacity of 25,000 tonnes. The Ministry of Defence had said only five percent of it was lost. Army engineers had launched an operation on June 1 for disposing of the leftover shells, the ministry said Sunday.

The English-language daily THE FRONTIER POST had reported that the Nowshera depot was used as a point of ammunition supplied notably to the Afghan mojahedin guerrillas. However this was denied repeatedly by the authorities.

Spokesman Denies Withdrawing Transit Facilities

BK0707165791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 7 (AFP)—Pakistan Sunday denied it had withdrawn transit stay facilities for Indian nationals as reported earlier, a foreign office spokesman said here.

He clarified that only those passengers who did not carry valid visas would not be allowed to leave the airport. This applied equally to all foreigners and Indian passengers were not being discriminated against, he said.

"The India-Pakistan Visa Agreement (1989) states that no visa is required for nationals of either country whose transit is for less than 24 hours, but in such cases their stay shall be confined to the area in the airport set apart for international transit passengers," he said.

However, transit visas continue to be issued to bonafide Indian passengers for a stay of up to 72 hours, he said.

India reacted angrily Saturday to a report by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) a day earlier that Islamabad had withdrawn the transit stay facilities for Indian passengers.

APP quoting a top official of the Federal Investigation Agency had said that the transit facility was being "gravely misused" by Indian agents.

Sri Lanka

Muslims 'Butchered' by Suspected Tamil Guerrillas

BK0707050691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Colombo, July 7 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday butchered 19 Moslem villagers in eastern Sri Lanka as security forces stepped up their drive against the militants, officials here said.

About 40 to 50 gunmen believed to be from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot 10 civilians in the village of Puthur in eastern Polonnaruwa district and nine others at a nearby inland fish pond.

The massacre came as troops renewed attacks against the separatist LTTE guerrillas killing 10 of them inside a newly built bunker in northern Vavuniya district Saturday, a military spokesman here said.

LTTE Offers Unconditional Talks With Government

BK0707090491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is reported to have once again offered to hold unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan Government. In an interview with a news agency in London, the LTTE leader, Kittu, said it is has been proved that the ethnic issue in the northeast cannot be solved by military campaign.

Meanwhile, 19 civilians and 10 LTTE militants have been killed in separate incidents in northeast Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours. Official sources in Colombo said suspected LTTE militants attacked two villages in Polonnaruwa District in the Eastern Province and killed 19 people, including women and children. In Vavuniya District in the Northern Province, security forces destroyed an LTTE bunker killing 10 militants.